我が名は海師

Master Of Sea UMISHI

4

[作画] 小森陽一
武村勇治

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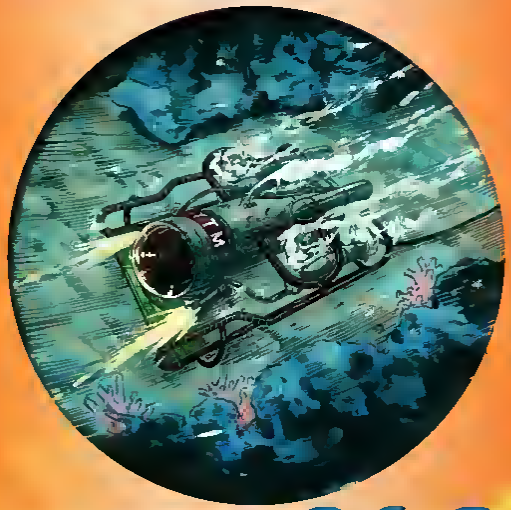

Master Of Sea

YÔICHI KOMORI+YUJI TAKEMURA

After successfully raising a sunken ship from under the Kanmon Bridge, a feat previously thought impossible, Nanbo Salvage becomes one of the best-known companies in the salvage world. However the mass media does not cover them, they are remain unknown to the public, and their debt is as large as ever. On the other hand Eguchi, of rival company Yamato Salvage, raises a wrecked Self-Defence Force plane at Miyagi to wild media acclaim. Rintarou, who decides he wants Nanbo to be famous too, receives a request from a woman who wants her father's old Zero fighter plane raised as a memento. But what are her real intentions...?

我が名は海師 Master Of Sea UMISHI 4

[Story]
Yoichi Komori

[Art]
Yuji Takemura

BIG COMICS

我が名は海師 Master Of Sea 4

[原作] 小森陽一
[作画] 武村勇治

小学館

Master Of Sea

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我が名は海師

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[Story]
Yoichi Komori

[Art]
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Master Of Sea

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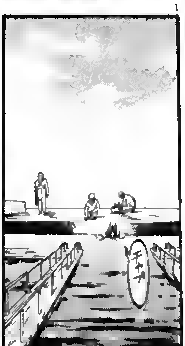
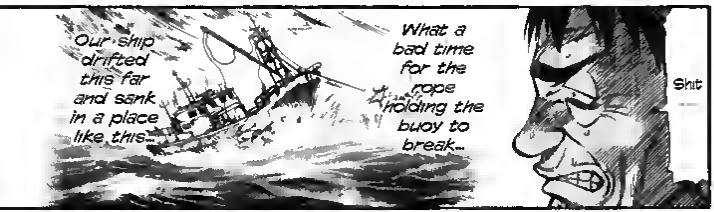
Chapter 29 Another Troublesome Guy

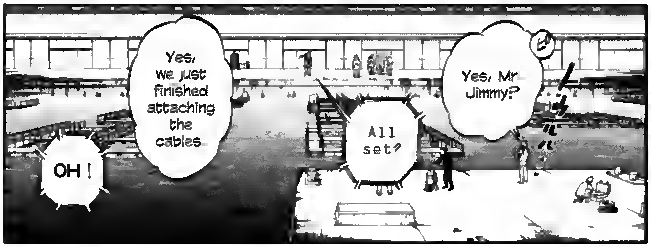


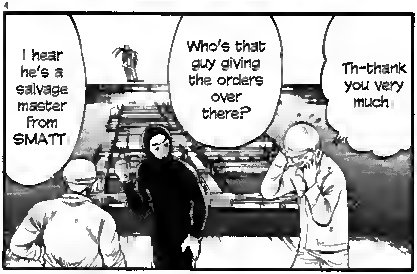
Chapter 29 Another Troublesome Guy

Don't give orders without thinking about my pain!
Do you know how much this is costing me!?
Well then, y'all get that sunken ship out of there right this minute, or else!


Our ship drifted this far and sank in a place like this...
What a bad time for the rope holding the buoy to break...
Shit

Please! You're my only hope now!
Please raise it quickly!


OH!
Yes, we just finished attaching the cables
All set?
Yes, Mr Jimmy?


I hear he's a salvage master from SMATT
Who's that guy giving the orders over there?
Th-thank you very much

Great! You Japanese are such fast workers!

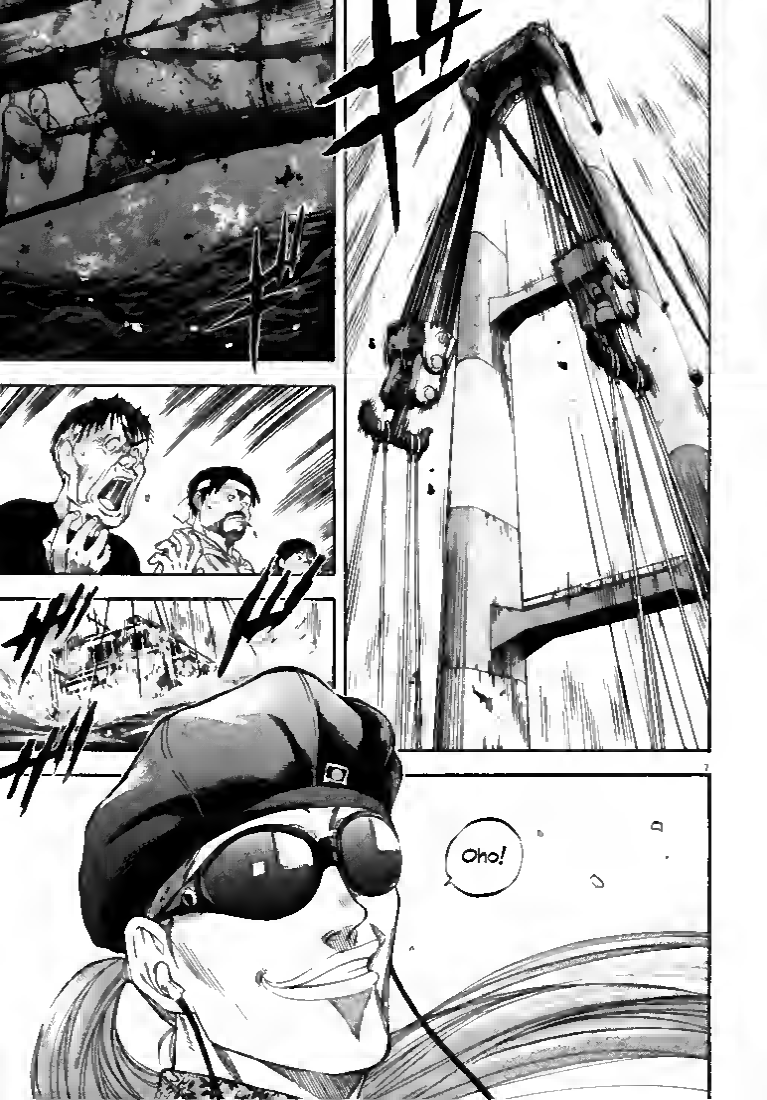
You're a salvor and you've never heard of SMATT?
Eeh !?
SMATT ?

They set up an oil rig in the North sea through 10m high waves. Most recently they raised a Russian nuclear submarine from a 400m depth!
It's a Dutch salvage company, the most famous in the world!

OK!
スーン
ズーン
ギュッ
Pick it up!
トーン
トーン

This guy is in Japan for a meeting and just happened to come across this wreck
No way, really!? That's so cool!
That's really lucky for the owners

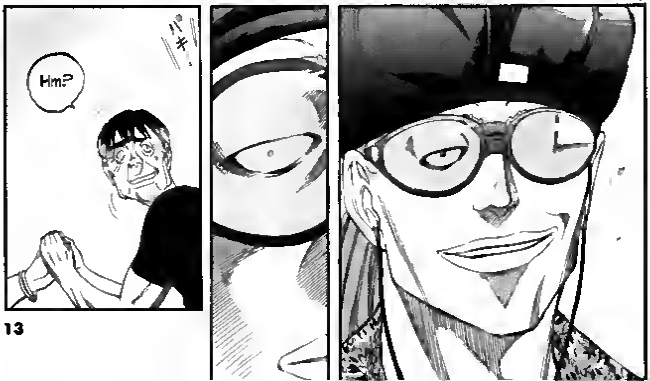
It's showtime!


Oho!

He did it! It's up!
Whoa!

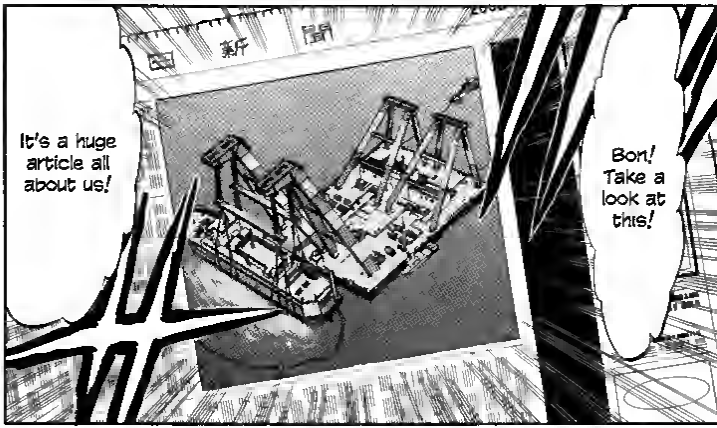
So this is "World-class skill"!
He raised it with the minimum amount of cables and in no time at all!
Wow! That's SMART for you! I'm so moved!

This was a very easy job for me
OH!
T-thank you so much!

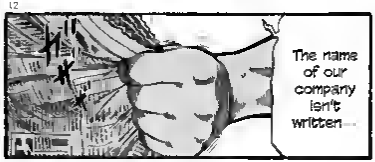

Hm?

Hey you, what just !?

難波サルヴェージ


It's a huge article all about us!
Bon! Take a look at this!

—it's not here—
Bon?


The name of our company isn't written—

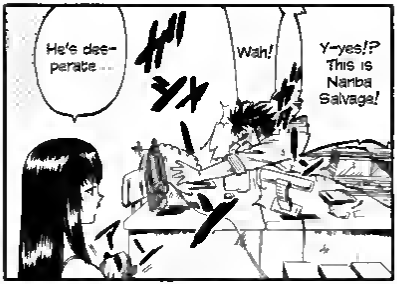
がはは
Ha ha!
We did it!

When the Coast Guard does anything big they get much better coverage ...
There's almost nothing written about us here...!
Happens all the time
It's not like we're doing this to get famous anyway
Yup, yup!

That's exactly why we've got to get famous!
What we need is money!

13

Act a little more worried, dammit!
Our lives are on the line here!
Our company will go bankrupt within the year from the interest on the loan!
If we don't get famous and get more work coming in ...


He's desperate...
Wah!
Y-yes!? This is Narita Salvage!

A ship broke in two while being raised...and sank again?
What?

Great, we've got work! Let's go!

Thank you very much!
Okay! We'll be there right away!

You just said it's the money that matters!
Forget money, my pride won't allow it!
Hmph!
Wiping someone else's ass...
Like hell I'm going to do that!
W-what's wrong?
む～

That's right! Salvaging should be about the big jobs, not little ones like this.
Don't rush! The boss always used to say, "We can pay back 200 or 300 million with our big next job!"

Stop grumbling and let's go!

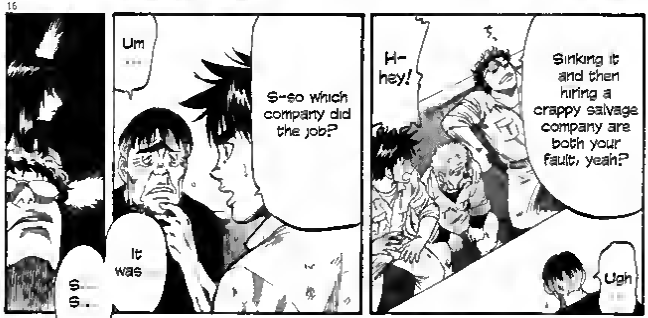
北九建業組合

You can't eat pride!
Pay what back!? Didn't the debt grow to 1.5 billion in the end!?
Reminds me of my mom...

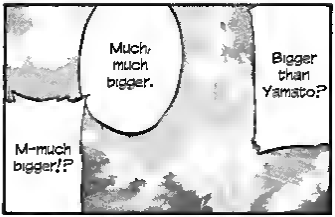
D-don't worry about it!
Um... Did you guys have a fight...?

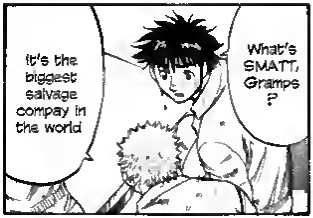
It's bad enough that it lost its way and then sank, now it's broken and things are even worse...
It did!
More importantly, you say the ship broke apart...?

15

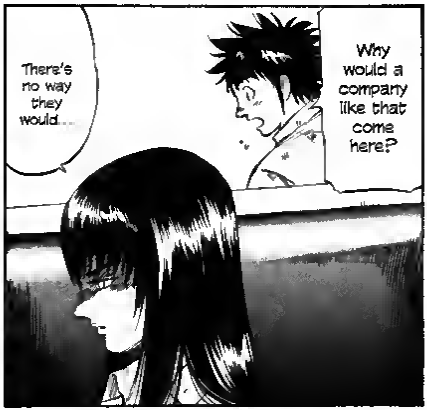

Um...
S-so which company did the job?
It was
S...
S..
H-hey!
Sinking it and then hiring a crappy salvage company are both your fault, yeah?
Ugh...

SMATT
!?
SMATT,
I think...


Much, much bigger.
Bigger than Yamato?
M-much bigger!?


It's the biggest salvage compay in the world
What's SMATT, Gramps?

.....
Huh?


There's no way they would....
Why would a company like that come here?

19

I've never seen them like this before...
Hiro...

Sawa and...

What's going on?

T-then the SMATT guy that was here...
Was a fake.
Ha!

Red
.....!!

You mean he was a liar!?
Yup. A red-faced liar!

He was wearing loud clothes.
Speaking of which, that guy—

Red, huh...

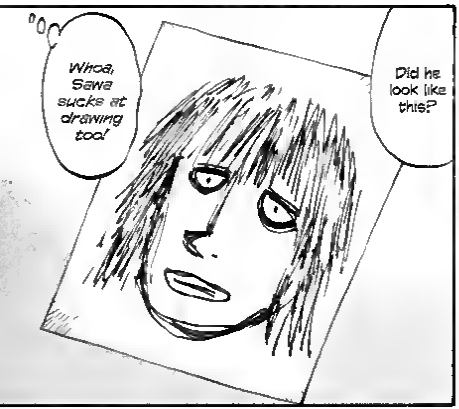
And his hair was pure red!

Damn!
It's "him".
!?
"Him" ?

Aww ...
I was this close, too!

Chapter 30 A Disgrace to all Men of the Sea

KITAGAWA FISHING SOCIETY

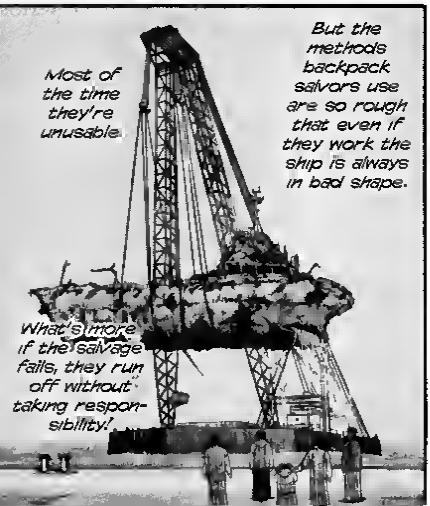


1

Chapter 30 A Disgrace to all Men of the Sea

Yeah.
Backpack salvor?

When he finds a wreck, he worms his way in with the captain or owner and gets them to sign a contract.
A salvor that travels around the world with just a bag.

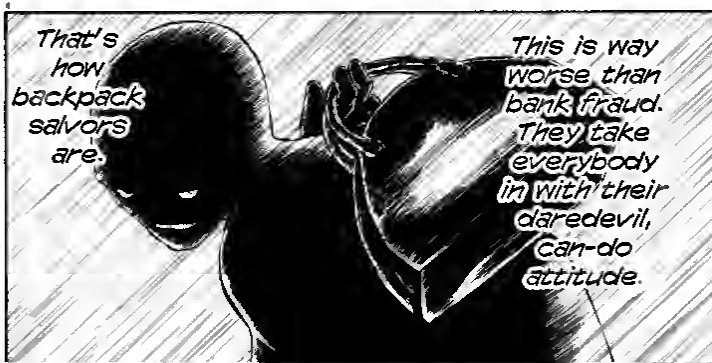

Most of the time they're unusable.
But the methods backpack salvors use are so rough that even if they work the ship is always in bad shape.
What's more if the salvage fails, they run off without taking responsibility!

Then he opens up the phone book in his bag and hires the people and tools he needs locally to carry out the salvage...

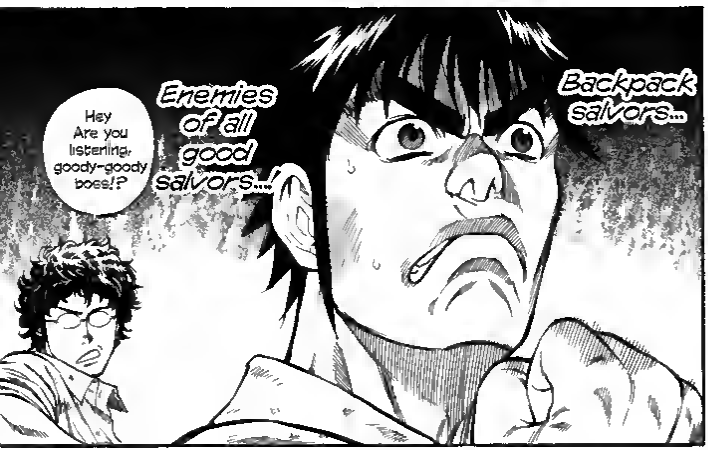
I see...
.....

Isn't that... fraud?
Nope. Because they do do the work.

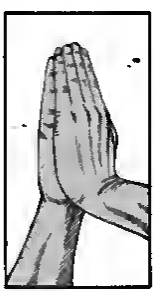
There are still people like that in this day and age?
I can't believe it.
Hm.
There's quite a lot of them around the place, I'm afraid...

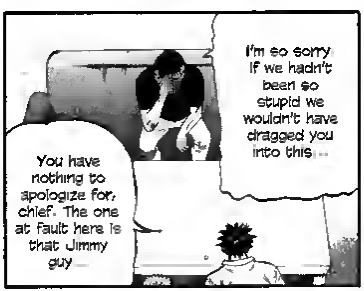

That's how backpack salvors are.
This is way worse than bank fraud. They take everybody in with their daredevil, can-do attitude.

So, in the end the clean-up always falls to us...
Goody-goody
Salvage companies to do.


Backpack salvors...
Enemies of all good salvors...!
Hey Are you listening, goody-goody boss!?

5




I'm so sorry. If we hadn't been so stupid we wouldn't have dragged you into this...
You have nothing to apologize for, chief. The one at fault here is that Jimmy guy...

Told ya. We've all got our pride!
I called so many places, but all the salvage companies turned me down.
The ship is sunk in a sea urchin farm. I don't want to cause them any more trouble...
Please!

You're the only ones...
Your names weren't on the news so I didn't know, but... I hear you guys are the ones who raised the ship from under the Kanmon Bridge...

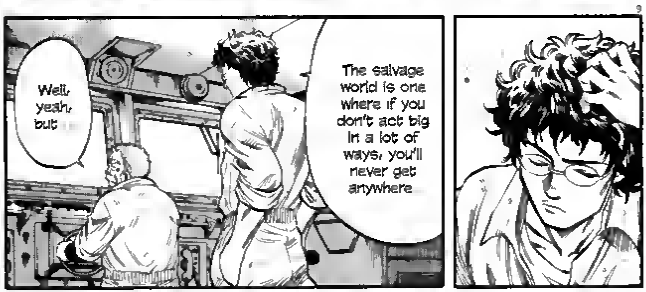
You're the only ones I can trust...!

We'll raise the ship, I promise.
You can depend on us one hundred percent! Leave it to us!

海麟丸
KAIRIN MARU

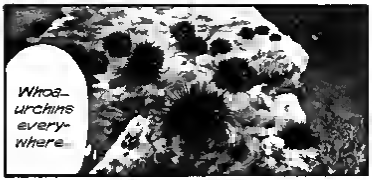
Leave it to us, eh?

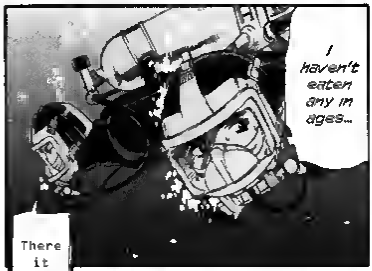
That's what's good about Bon, you know
A silly little job like this, what's there to get all worked up about?

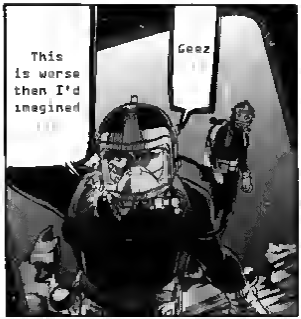

Well, yeah, but
The salvage world is one where if you don't act big in a lot of ways, you'll never get anywhere

That serious, people-loving attitude of his...
I hope it doesn't cost him one day...

SEA URCHIN FARM


Whoa— urchins everywhere


I haven't eaten any in ages...
There it is.


This is worse then I'd imagined...
Geez...

It really is broken in two.

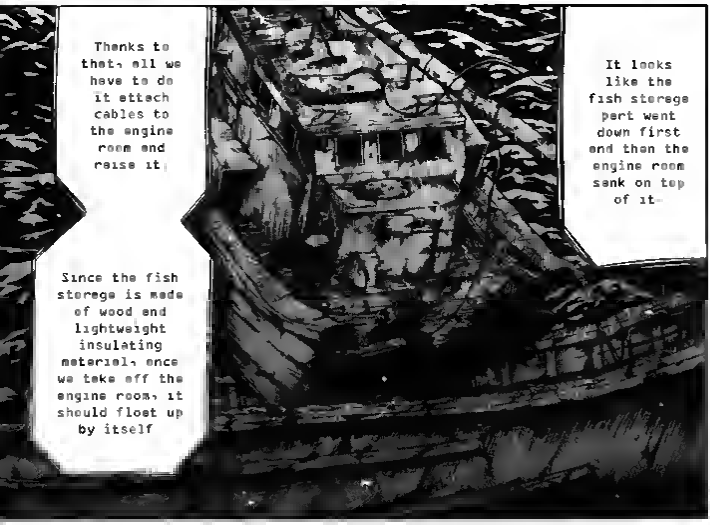
He didn't take any anti-oil precautions either...
He didn't calculate the load weight or anything, so the number of cables is too small and the positioning is way off

12

Can we raise this ship without causing any more damage...!?
Dammed backpack salvor...! Deceiving the chief and then doing such shoddy work...

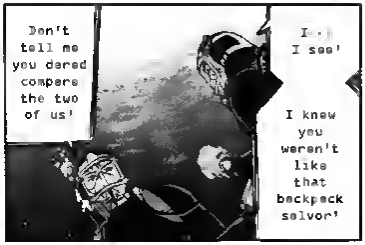
.....
This is worse then an ameteur job...

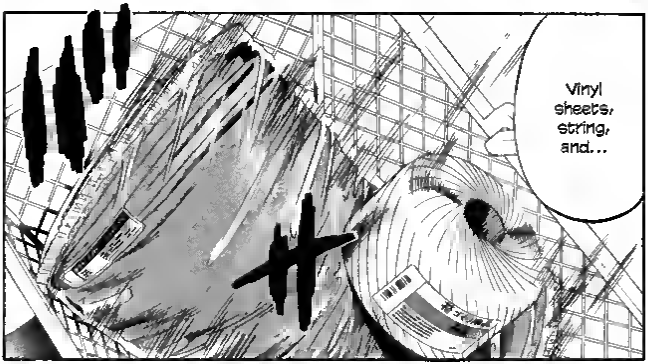
Huh?
This should be a piece of cake-
But still...


Thanks to that, all we have to do it attach cables to the engine room and raise it!
It looks like the fish storage part went down first and then the engine room sank on top of it-
Since the fish storage is made of wood and lightweight insulating materials, once we take off the engine room, it should float up by itself

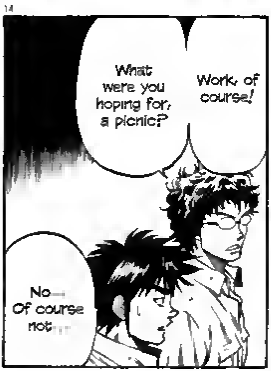
13

Anyway, first we've got some shopping to do
What?

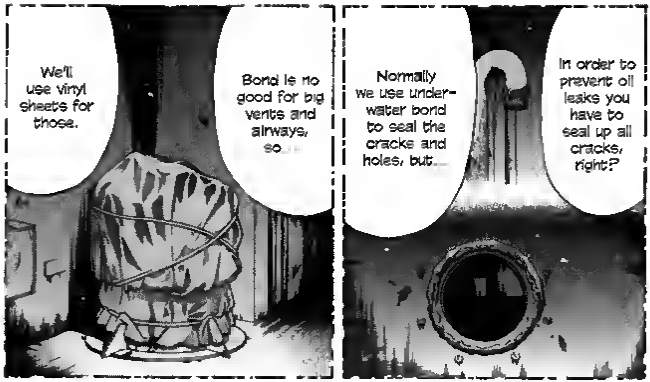

Don't tell me you dared compare the two of us!
I... I see!
I knew you weren't like that backpack salvor!


Vinyl sheets, string, and...

14


What were you hoping for, a picnic?
Work, of course!
No— Of course not...

What are we going to do with these?
Now for...

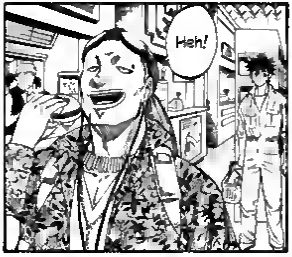

We'll use vinyl sheets for those.
Bond is no good for big vents and airways, so...
Normally we use underwater bond to seal the cracks and holes, but...
In order to prevent oil leaks you have to seal up all cracks, right?

Ohhh, I see...
The items you need differ from case to case, so it's common to buy whatever you need locally. That's why it's very important to check the locations of the nearest hardware stores before you set out.

15

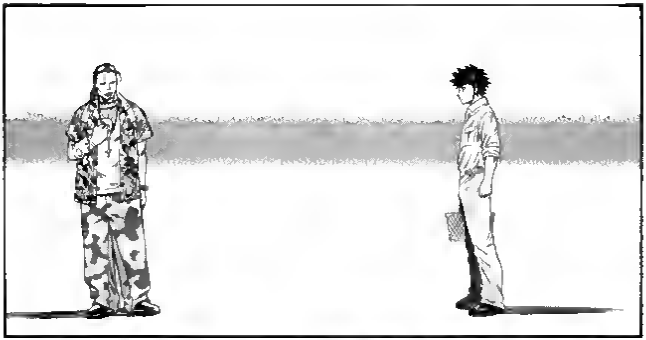
Hey, hey, hey, what the hell is this!?
BURGER
Ow, ow, ow!
ぺす
Don't "I see" me, start remembering this stuff!

There's a bug in my burger, dammit!
A bu... bug?


Heh!

I, I'm so sorry! I'll replace it immediately
And I'll give you a full refund...
What do you think I am, a fish? Not even human?

Red hair ...
Loud cloth -es and



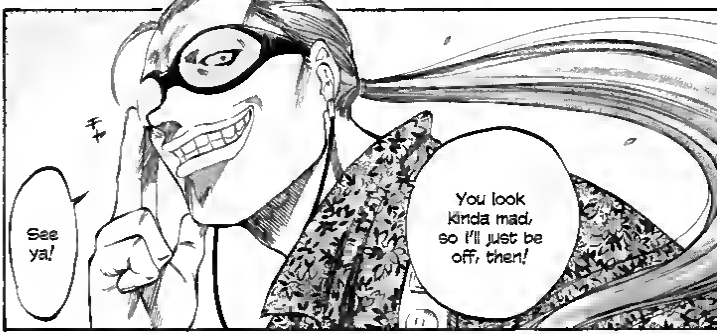
Sawa! It's Jimmy!
You won't get away!
Don't underestimate a former Coast guard!

GAAH!

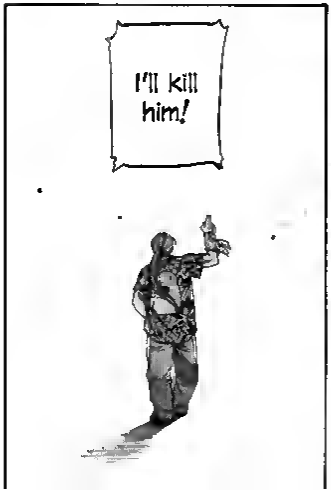
!!
Yeah! Now I've got...
Please don't try to leave without paying!
Mr Customer!

Huh?
L-let go of me!
What are you doing here?
Oh look, it's Sawa-chan!
Cleaning up the ship you broke!

Oh dear me...
I can't believe you'd use SMATT as a cover. Pisses me off...!


See ya!
You look kinda mad, so I'll just be off, then!

20


I'll kill him!

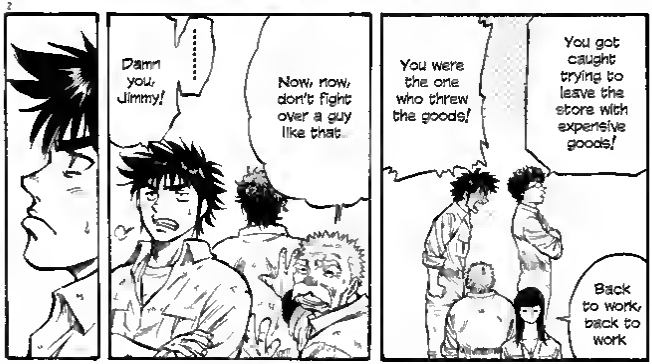
That asshole. Next time I see him...
Ah! Wait!

Chapter 31 The Special Eye

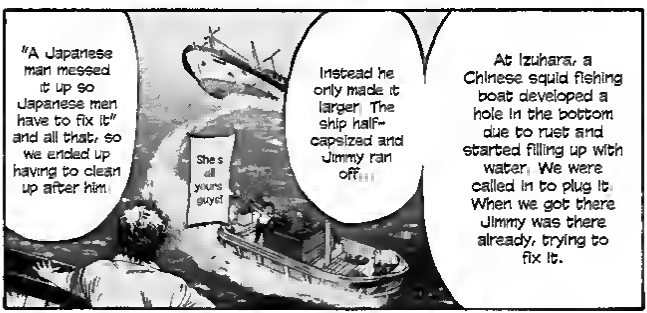
He's got bald guy written all over him!
Yeah! I saw the loud clothes and red hair and I knew in a flash it was him!

What? Me alone!? You were there too!
What do you mean "in a flash," you let him get away!

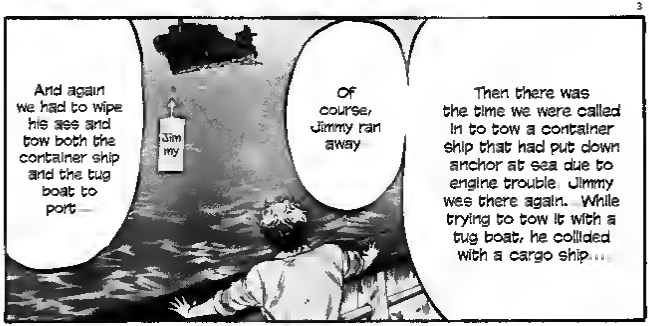
2


Damn you, Jimmy!
Now, now, don't fight over a guy like that.
You were the one who threw the goods!
You got caught trying to leave the store with expensive goods!
Back to work, back to work

What kind of relationship do you two have?
Come to think of it, Jimmy seemed to know you, Sawa.


"A Japanese man messed it up so Japanese men have to fix it" and all that, so we ended up having to clean up after him.
She's all yours guys!
Instead he only made it larger. The ship half-capsized and Jimmy ran off...
At Izuhara, a Chinese squid fishing boat developed a hole in the bottom due to rust and started filling up with water. We were called in to plug it. When we got there Jimmy was there already, trying to fix it.

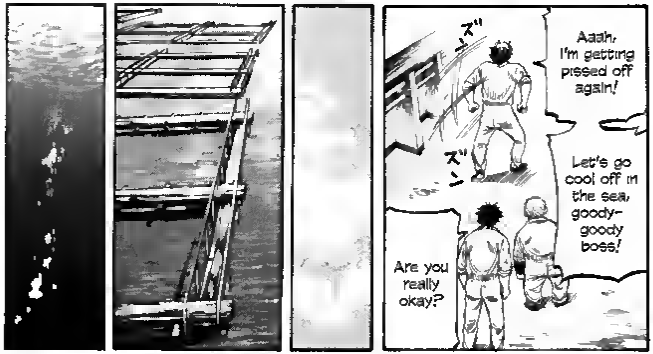
3


And again we had to wipe his ass and tow both the container ship and the tug boat to port...
Jimmy
Of course, Jimmy ran away.
Then there was the time we were called in to tow a container ship that had put down anchor at sea due to engine trouble. Jimmy was there again. While trying to tow it with a tug boat, he collided with a cargo ship...

THAT'S THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE...!
GU
SH
That's an abusive relationship, man...
No wonder you're pissed off...

That Jimmy is the worst of the worst of them!
There are lots of backpack sailors out there, but...

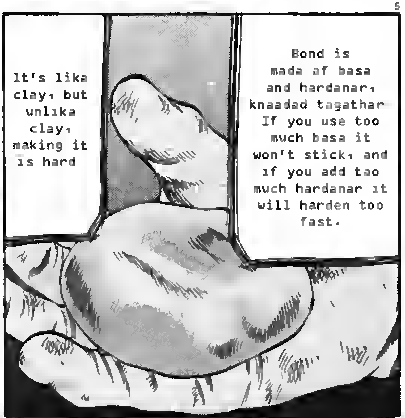
4


Aaah, I'm getting pissed off again!
Let's go cool off in the sea, goody-goody boss!
Are you really okay?

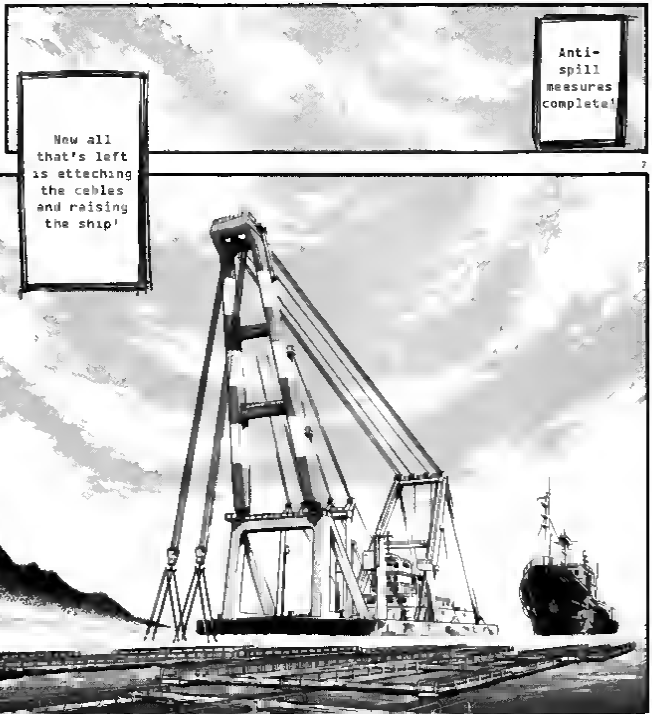
First we're going to stop up all cracks with underwater bond to prevent all leaks

5

Show me your common sense!
It's a job that takes experianca, but it takes camman sansa too
O-Ok

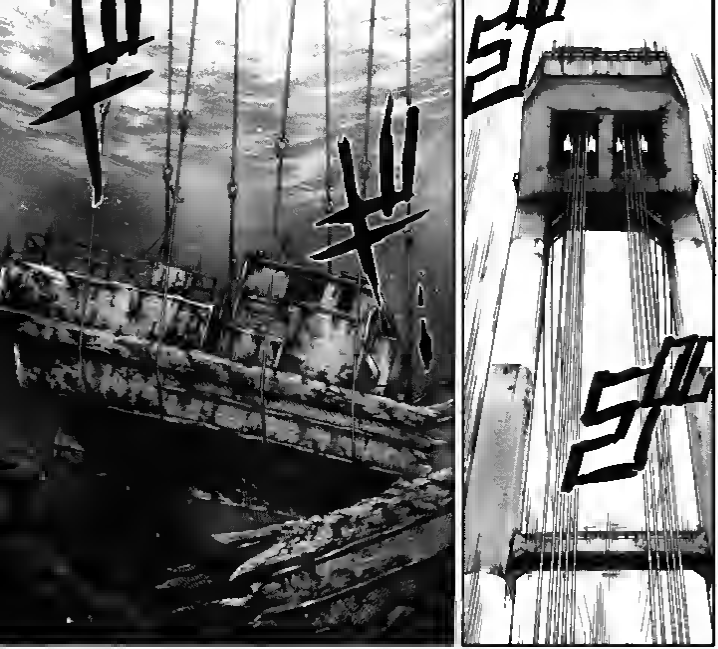

It's lika clay, but unlika clay, making it is hard
Bond is made af basa and hardanar, knaadad tagathar If you use too much basa it won't stick, and if you add tao much hardanar it will harden too fast.

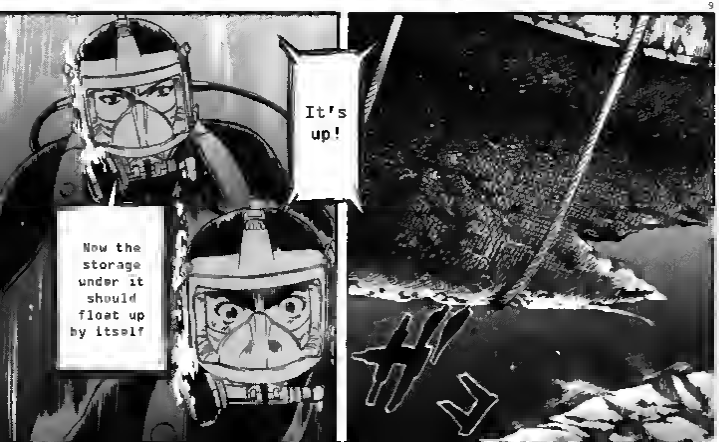
Great! Done!
Some-thing like this
...
6
If it's not one, it's the other shit shit shit shit!
He's going to kill me at this rate..
You haven't cooled down at all!
So you haven't got any common sense, huh!?
Do it properly!


Anti-spill measures complete!
Now all that's left is attaching the cables and raising the ship!

Gramps, we're ready!

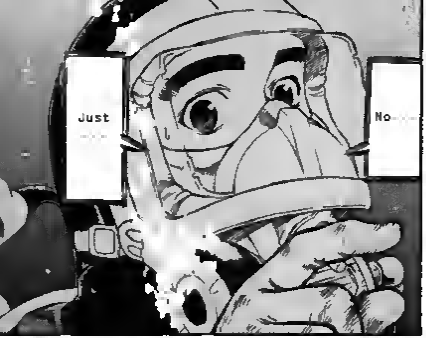
Start raising her up!
Roger that!




Now the storage under it should float up by itself
It's up!

If somebody had gotten his act together it would have gone even faster
Phew This job was easy

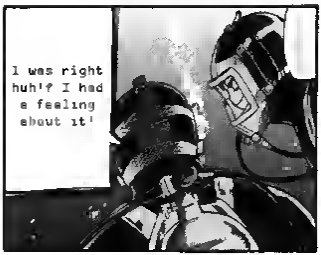
10
.....
Grr
I don't know about that
What'? All I need is some experience then I'll be fast too'


Just
No

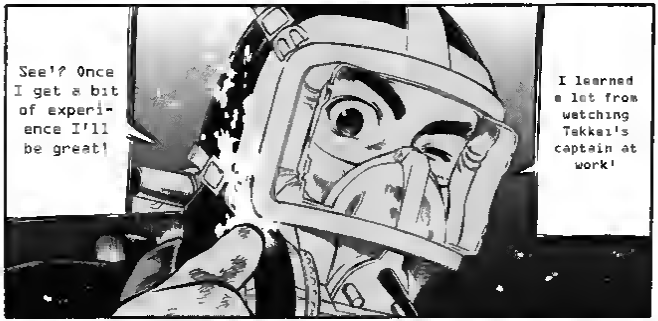
What's up?
?
...?

What if

There's more tension in the right side than in the left...
So it looks tilted to the left and a little off-balance...

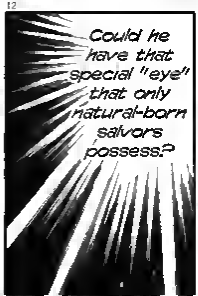

I was right huh!? I had a feeling about it!

Will do!
Gramps— It's tilted to the left! Tell them to raise the tension in the left side a bit!


See!? Once I get a bit of experience I'll be great!
I learned a lot from watching Takkai's captain at work!

No...

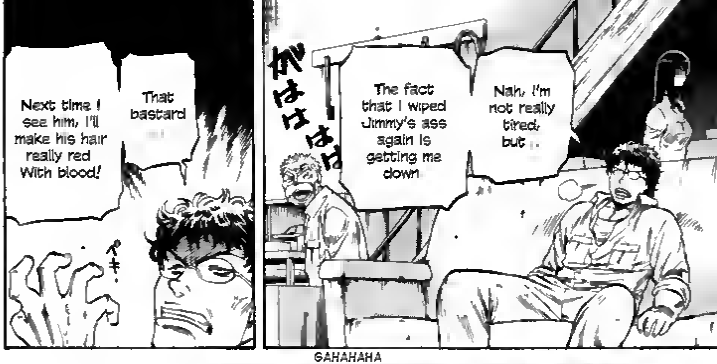
12


Could he have that special "eye" that only natural-born salvors possess?

Even veteran salvors wouldn't have noticed something like that.
The ship wasn't tilted. To be more accurate, it was "about to tilt."

If he does have that "eye"...
Then he's the third such salvor I've met so far...
Does he have the "Eye of Foresight"!?

Great job! You must be exhausted.
Phew!


Next time I see him, I'll make his hair really red With blood!
That bastard
ガハハハ
The fact that I wiped Jimmy's ass again is getting me down
Nah, I'm not really tired, but..

GAHAHAHA

AH-CHOO!

I'm back.
Yeah, I'm gonna eat and drink like no tomorrow!
When Bon brings our payment from the fisherman, let's cheer up with some great sushi!

Um...
Well...

Oh! Speak of the devil!
So how much did we make? Ass-wiping ain't cheap, you know!

Thank you so very, very much!
Well, the associa-tion chief was really happy!
Seeing him that happy, it was kinda hard to ask for money.

What are you trying to say?
Huh?

18

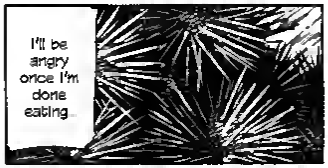
SAWA ASKS HOW MUCH HE GOT. HOW MUCH = IKURA. IKURA ALSO = FISH ROE. RIN SPINS THIS INTO A SEAFOOD JOKE. REPLAYING THAT HE DIDN'T GET "IKURA" HE GOT "SEA URCHINS"

B-but you see, he said the association pooled their money and gave it all to Jimmy as an advance fee. So these urchins are they only way they have left to thank us!
Making a joke of it, are we?
I see...

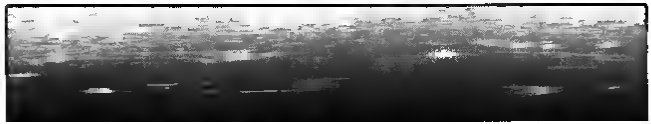
Ku ku ku...
Hehe...
He...

.....
I guess I deserve this...!

I'm hungry!
Aren't you angry?


I'll be angry once I'm done eating.

Let's make these into sushi.
Okay then.



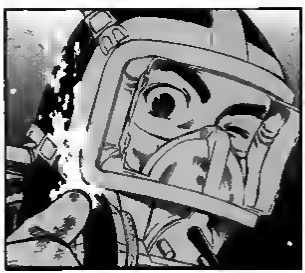
20

Everything tastes better when you help other people out!
Before that, how about helping us out with some money!?

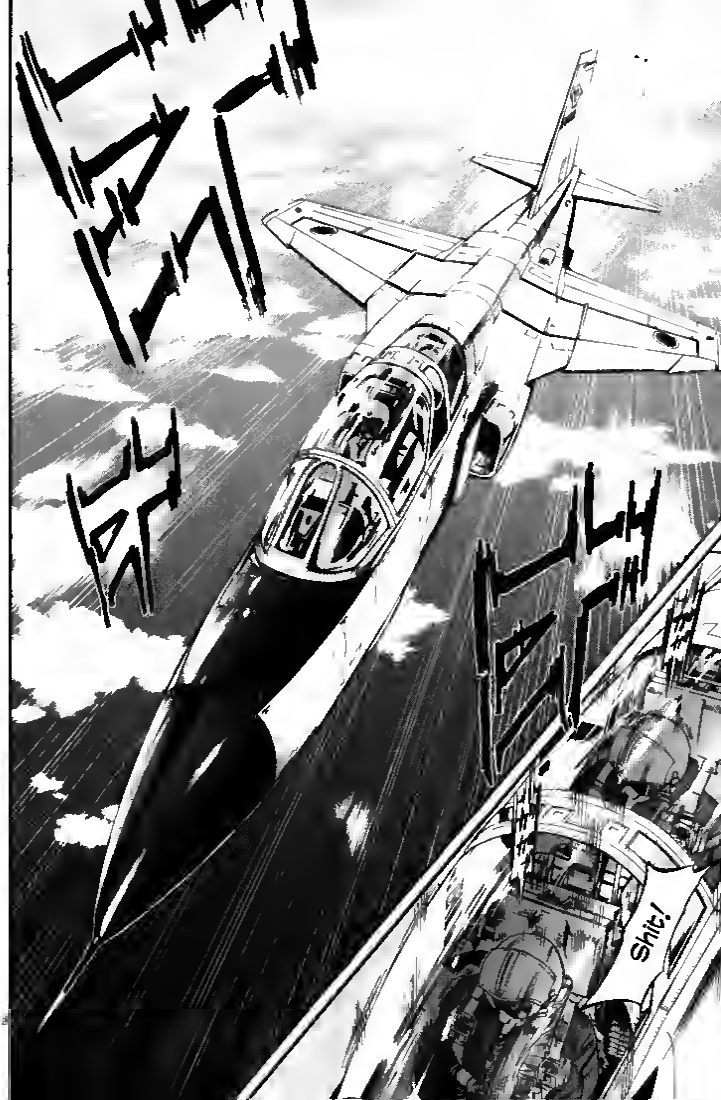
Urchins are so good!
They go so well with sake!

I didn't let him off...
The day is coming when he's going to pay for being like this...
Sawa-chan, it's nice of you to let Bon off so lightly.
Shaddup!
Hiro, you think so too, right?
Geez!
Well
That's what I think, but .

Still, he's a pretty interesting guy!

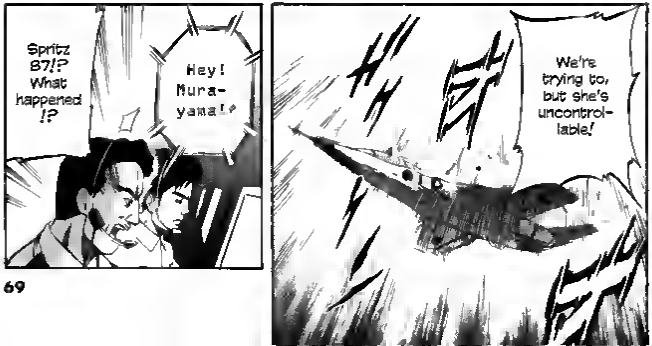


Chapter 32 Taking back his Pride

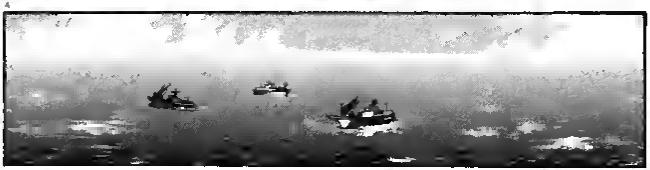

Shit!

Mayday! Mayday! This is Spritz 87!
We've got trouble with the hydraulic system!
Shit! This was supposed to be her last flight!
Calm down, Murakyama!
Oil pressure's falling! We're losing power!

CHUBU AIR CONTROL CENTRE COMMAND ROOM
Spritz 87, we read you! Can you make an emergency landing!?

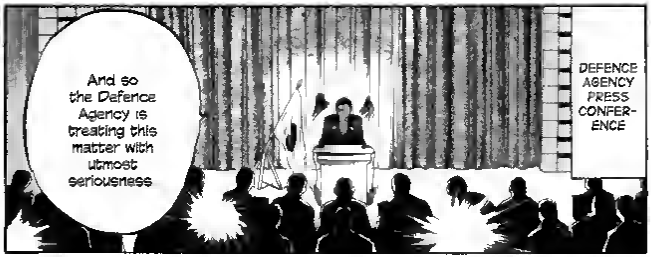

Spritz 87!? What happened !?
Hey! Murayama!?
We're trying to, but she's uncontrollable!

Mura-yama! Pull yourself together!
No... He's passed out!



What's that sound?
?
L-look
Go up!
Can't get civilians mixed up in this.
Uwaaaah!

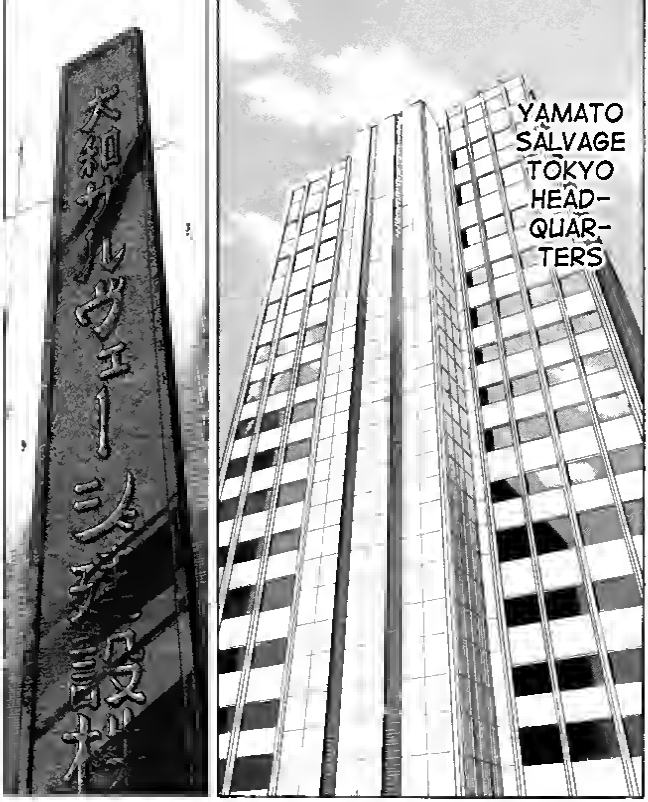
AIR SELF-DEFENCE FORCE TRAINING FLIGHT CRASHES NEAR SHIOGAMA!
BOTH PILOTS MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVE CRASH!
LOCAL FISHING GROUPS WORRIED ABOUT POSS! BIBLE OIL SPILL INTO NEARBY OYSTER FARM.
Governor of Miyagi Prefecture personally directing government response!


DEFENCE AGENCY PRESS CONFERENCE
And so the Defence Agency is treating this matter with utmost seriousness

Director General Ishimori, which salvage company would that be?
Yesterday the decision was taken to raise the aircraft. We are currently in consultations with a civilian salvage company about the the job.

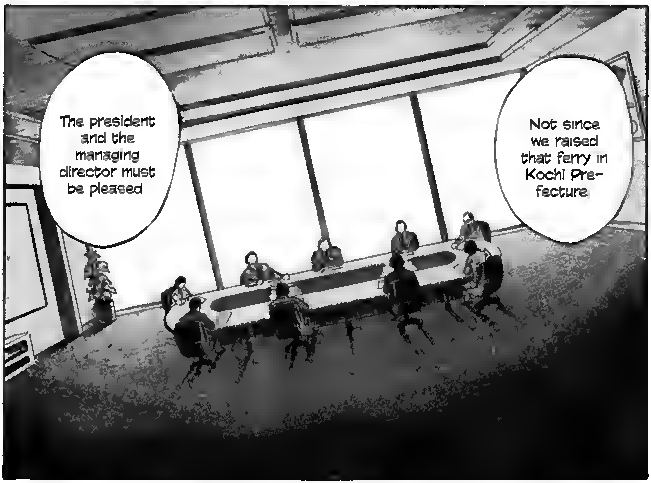
Yamato Salvage.
Does this have anything to do with the fact that Sendai City is your hometown?
The decision to raise the plane was made unusually quickly
Sir!
They are a company with an excellent track record so we are confident they will raise the plane with all the necessary care
That will be all
Mr Ishimori!
Sir!
We just want to investigate the cause as soon as possible in order to prevent incidents like this in future
That has nothing to do with it
But that...

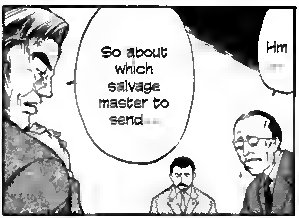
*SENDAI = CAPITAL OF MIYAGI PREFECTURE



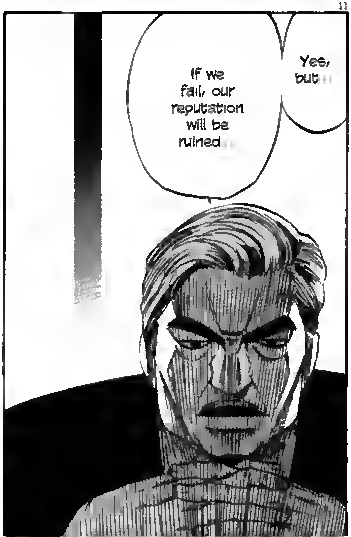
YAMATO SALVAGE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH DEFENCE AGENCY

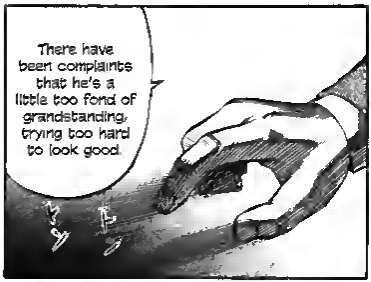
DEFENCE AGENCY DECIDES TO RAISE CRASHED PLANE


The president and the managing director must be pleased
Not since we raised that ferry in Kochi Prefecture


So about which salvage master to send...
Hm...

But Eguchi is working at Kashima right now. We can't ignore that job either...
I think Eguchi would do a perfect job

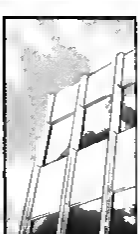

If we fail, our reputation will be ruined...
Yes, but...


There have been complaints that he's a little too fond of grandstanding, trying too hard to look good.

But...
Eguchi is very good. It's true...

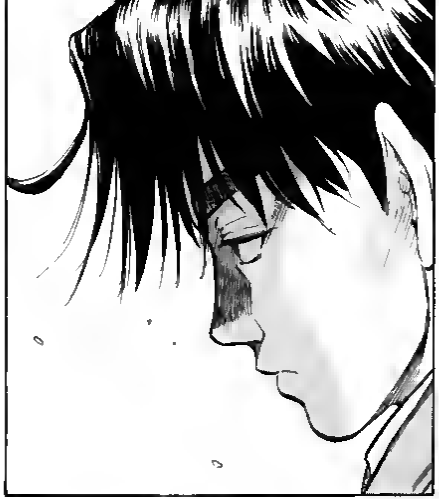
We can't afford to let him trip us up...

12



Yes, sir!
Let's send somebody else this time. Section chief, I leave the selection to you.

TAIWAN
KAOH-
SIUNG
WATERS



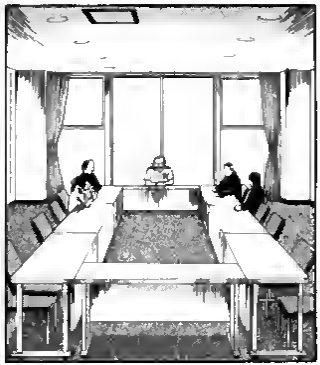
Mr. Eguchi, your next orders please

Where are you going!?
Air-port?
I'm going to the airport. Get your orders from the foreman.

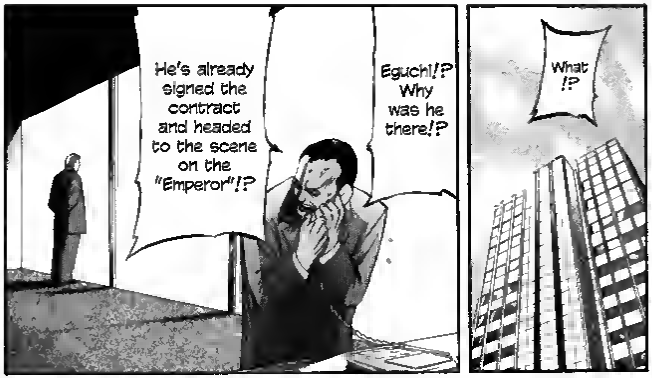
AIR SELF DEFENSE FORCE, MATSU-SHIMA BASE.

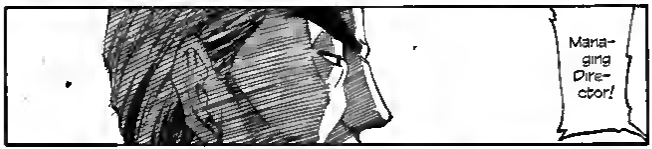
To Shiogama.
Eh!?

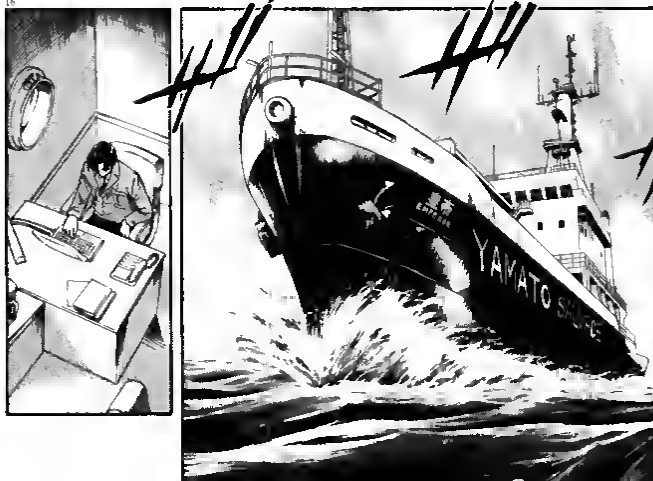
Excuse me sir, the man from Yamato Salvage is here

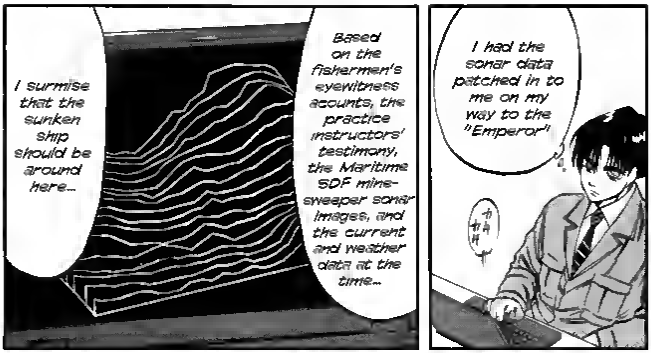


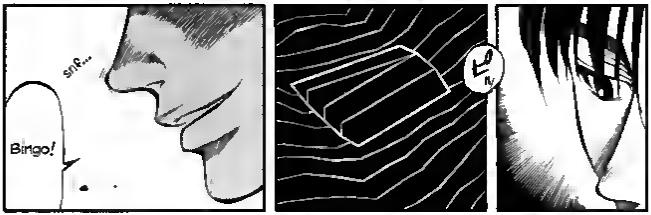
Yes sir!
Show him in


He's already signed the contract and headed to the scene on the "Emperor"!?
Eguchi!? Why was he there!?
What!?


Managing Director!


YAMATO


I surmise that the sunken ship should be around here...
Based on the fishermen's eyewitness accounts, the practice instructors' testimony, the Maritime SDF mine-sweeper sonar images, and the current and weather data at the time...
I had the sonar data patched in to me on my way to the "Emperor"!
Fu fu fu


Sniff...
Bingo!

But... to lift this job to the level of art, I'll raise all of the pieces in one go.
Raising a weight of about 10 ton from 22m of water should be easy...
Hehe.
Looks like it's spread out over a radius of 30m.

So you went ahead and did what you pleased, huh?

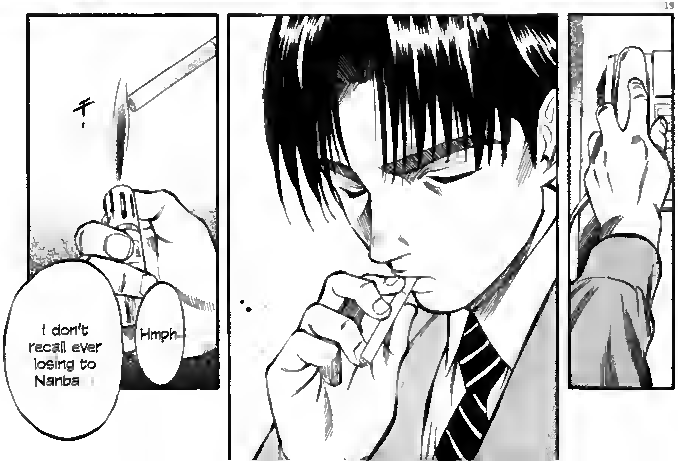
Yes, Eguchi here

If we failed it would be a critical loss for Yamato Salvage, would it not?
This job is very important for our company, sir
.....

Yes.
I hear you promised to raise it in 2 days.
Confident, aren't you?

Aren't you rushing things because Narita Salvage put one over you at Kanmon?

Take care you don't end up in need of salvaging yourself...

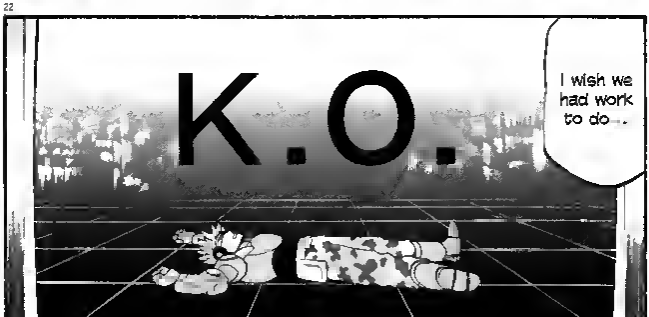

I don't recall ever losing to Nanba
Hmph...

Nanba Rintarou!
That's right. I'll show you what beautiful salvage is all about...

難波サルヴェージ

Gah!
Take this!
There!
This is your 30th loss in a row!
がはは
Aaah, I was so close!
KO!!
Try to get some practice while I'm gone.
I'm going get lunch started.
Hmph!
When it comes to machines, no one can beat Hiro.
I used to be the fighting game champion when I was a kid.

22



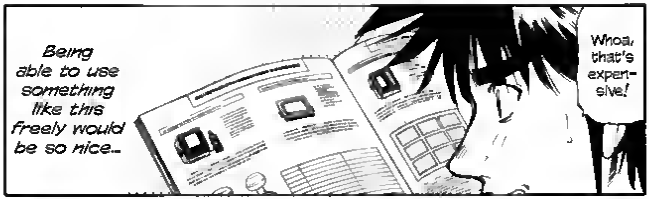
Come on Son, we're just a tiny little company that nobody knows...
No, it's selectivity
We didn't even get our names printed! This is discrimination!

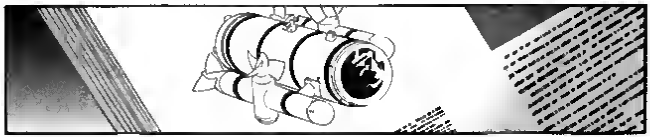
Chapter 33 Complicated Expectations

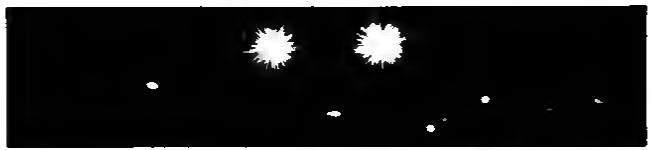
Tiny little!? We just finished a huge job!
You still can't compare the scales of our companies. It's natural that even the JSDF would pick the company with high-quality equipment and staff that they can trust
That's the difference between rich and poor
がくん……
So this world is all about money.
Right!? Money, money, money!
So even if you have to use slightly dirty means to get it it's okay, right?
No! Stay back! I'll never be a slave to money!

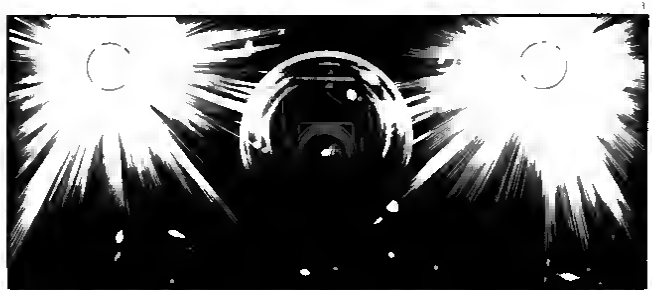
2

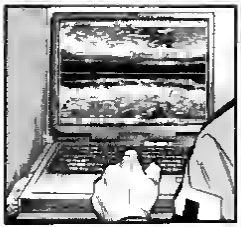
Ahh, but the loan !
Aah, shut up already!


Being able to use something like this freely would be so nice...
Whoa, that's expensive!

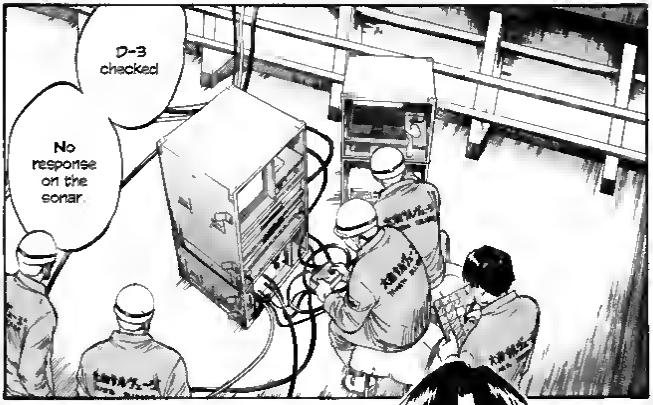


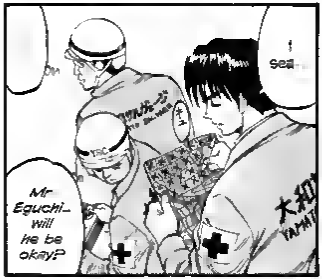






MIYAGI PREFECTURE SHIOGAMA WATERS.


D-3 checked
No response on the sonar


Mr Eguchi... will he be okay?

Nothing that looks like it is showing up on the camera either
We've been searching for two days
Haven't found even trace

We only came along with you because you promised to raise the plane in 2 days
Today is the second day.

These guys! What are they doing here!?
But what's really pissing me off is.....
YSC

I don't recall giving them permission to come along!

Ahem
Base commander, not in front of the camera
I'm terribly sorry, it's just that they said they were making a documentary of the raising and before I knew it...

Eguchi, not just you
If you don't have that plane up by the end of today
Anyway
ﾌﾝｯ

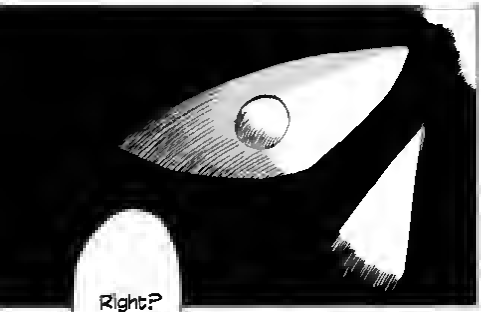
Director Mutou, what shall we do ?
But all of Yamato Salvage will feel my wrath!

!!
Mr. Eguchi! Look at this!
!!
Did you find it!?

No... this isn't it...
There's nothing like it on the camera...
10
Sir, as you may know, all our underwater disposal teams are in the middle of a joint training exercise with the American Navy. In any case, we do not have the necessary equipment to locate and raise the aircraft...
Why did we leave this job to civilians anyway!?
The Defence Agency is piling on the pressure... If it doesn't come up quickly, my standing...

There's no need to worry.
Sir...
Hmph! I find it hard to believe that this is the best salvage company in Japan!

11


Right?

I'm sure he'll meet all your expectations...
Eguchi is one of our biggest hopes

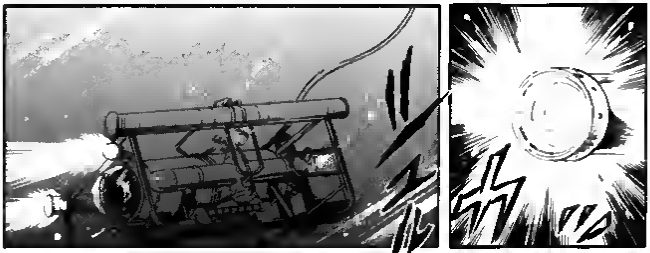
Fine
Sir

I'm getting seasick too This sucks
Yeah We won't get anything out of this

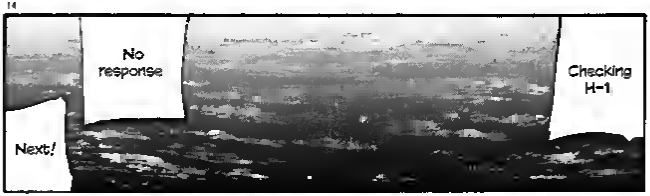
Director, things are looking pretty bad

Heh! They're pretty irritated right now...

... Please shift the search area from area F to area H.
!?
But then our search coordinates will be off and all the work we've done so far...
I don't care!
13
I'll take all responsi-bility for this!
Uh
Ohh!



14



...res-
ponse.
No...
Check H-2!
No response.
Check H-3.
Check H-4.
What kind of responsibility can a punk like you take anyway!?
Is this your idea of "taking responsibility"?
Pah!
Nothing.
15
There's something on the sonar!
Ah— wait a second!

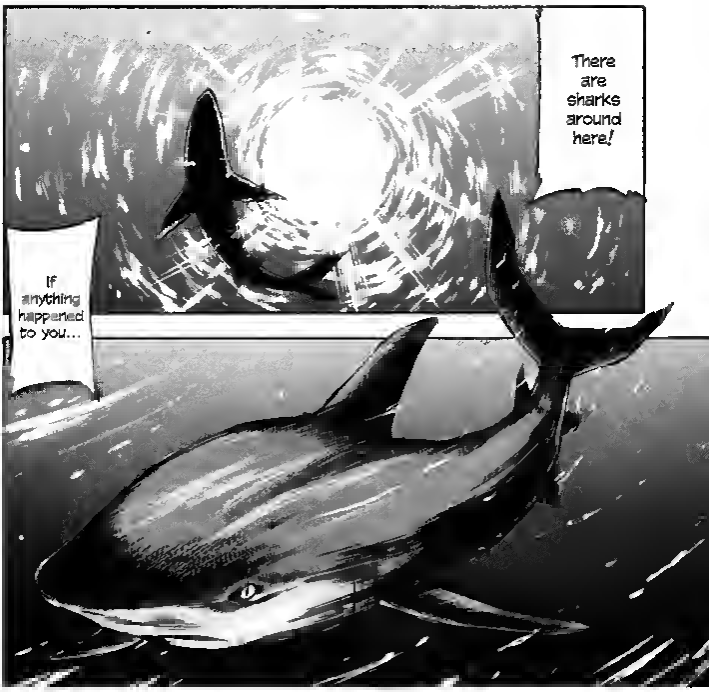
It's here! This is it!
EGISHI

No! It's too soon to rejoice
You finally did it!
What?

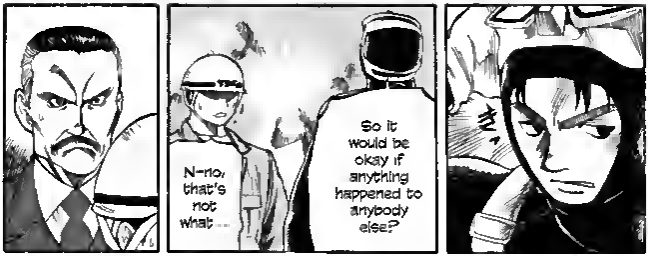
Until it's fully raised, this is not over!
The real work starts now...

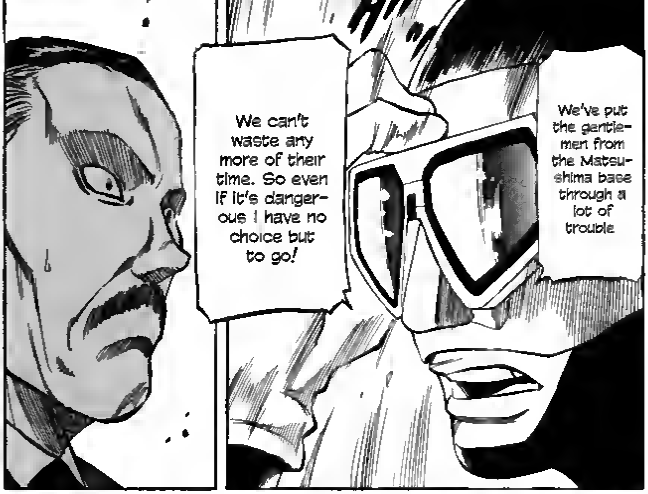
17

And you know about this area, right?
T-the salvage master doesn't have to dive in himself...
Mr Eguchi, are you really going in yourself?
Yes.


There are sharks around here!
If anything happened to you...

18


N-no, that's not what...
So it would be okay if anything happened to anybody else?


We've put the gentlemen from the Matsushima base through a lot of trouble
We can't waste any more of their time. So even if it's dangerous I have no choice but to go!

Hmm...
Sir...

Make sure you get all this on film!

SMIRK...

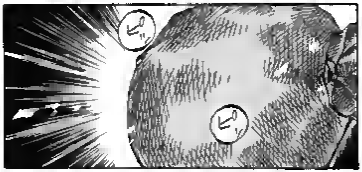
A shark..!?
.....!!

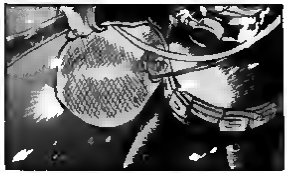
I thought I saw the shadow of a fish... Could it be...
.....!?

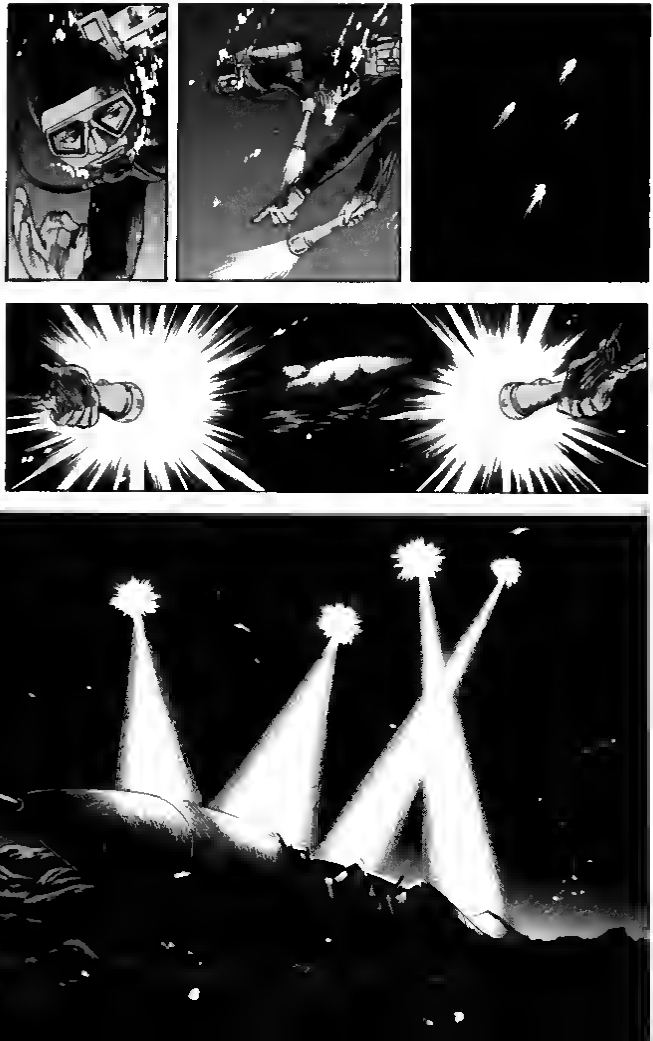
Chapter 34: Those Made to Dance

!!
SHARK!!
Mr. Eguchi!
AAAAAAAH!!

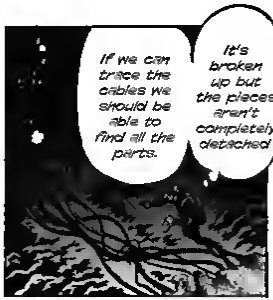
B-but why!?
……?

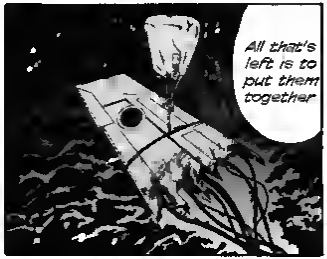




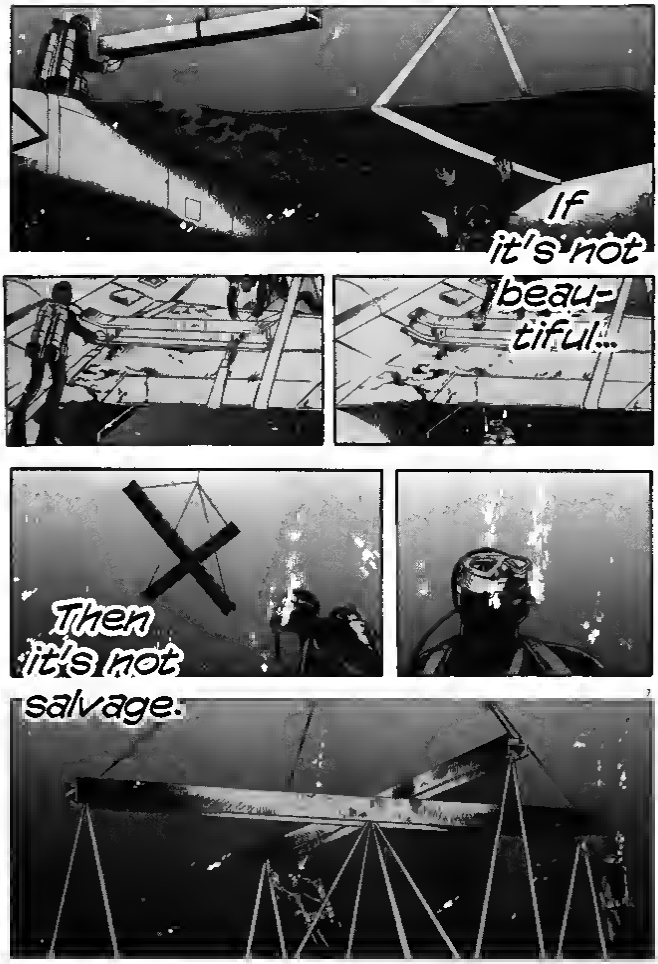


I've found all the big parts already
Okay...


If we can trace the cables we should be able to find all the parts.
It's broken up but the pieces aren't completely detached

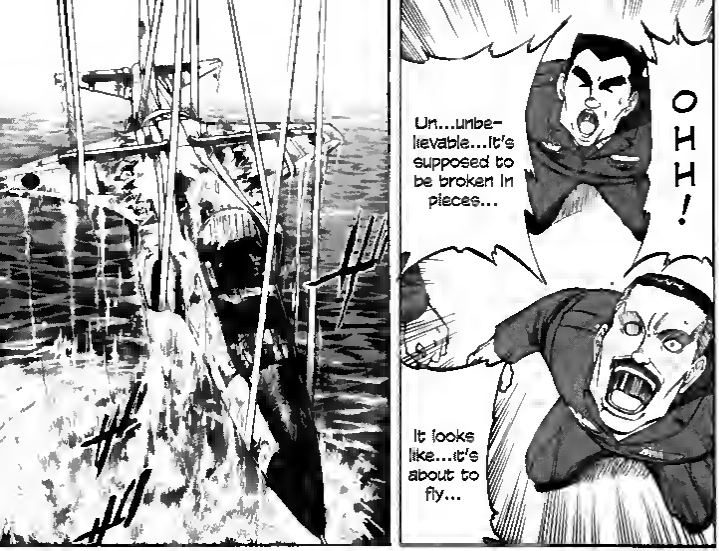

All that's left is to put them together

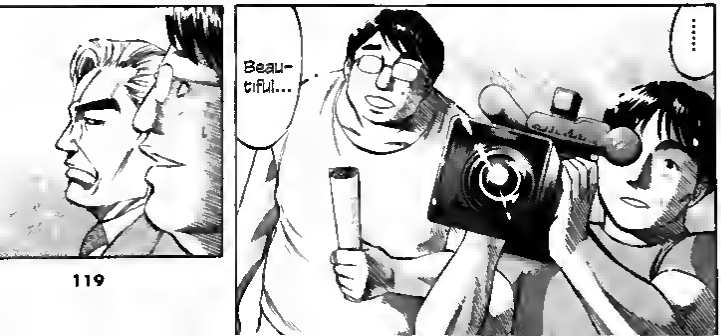
And then raise the whole thing beautifully.


If it's not beau-tiful...
Then it's not salvage.

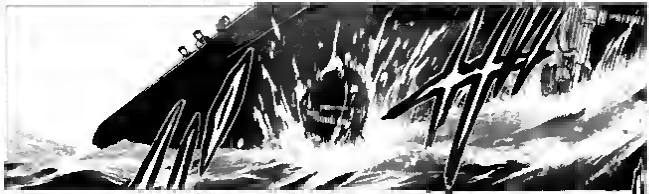
Mr. Eguchi, everything's ready
There's the signal!
Start raising!

SH
SH
SH
HH


OHH!
Un...unbe-lievable...It's supposed to be broken in pieces...
It looks like...it's about to fly...


Beau-tiful...
.....

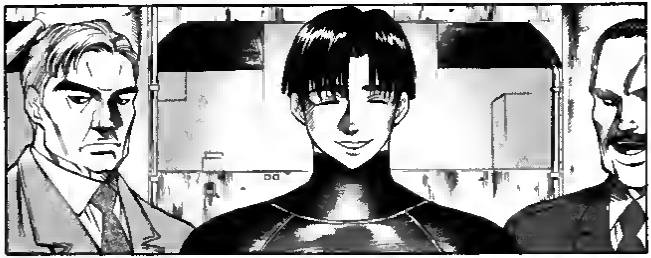
Over there!
Sir!
I hope they weren't attacked by a shark...
!!
But where's Eguchi and the other guy?

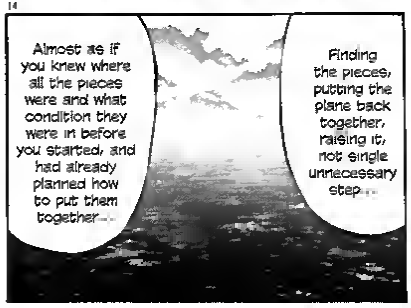


That was a beautiful piece of work!
Mr. Eguchi, I'm deeply moved!
I am highly honored to hear you say that

Excuse me, could we film you all together?

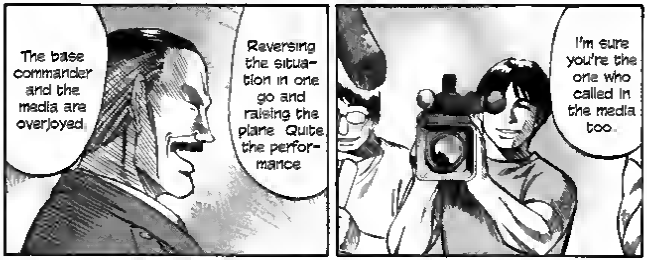
You too, Director Mutou




Almost as if you knew where all the pieces were and what condition they were in before you started, and had already planned how to put them together...
Finding the pieces, putting the plane back together, raising it, not single unnecessary step...

.....
So you did it, Eguchi...

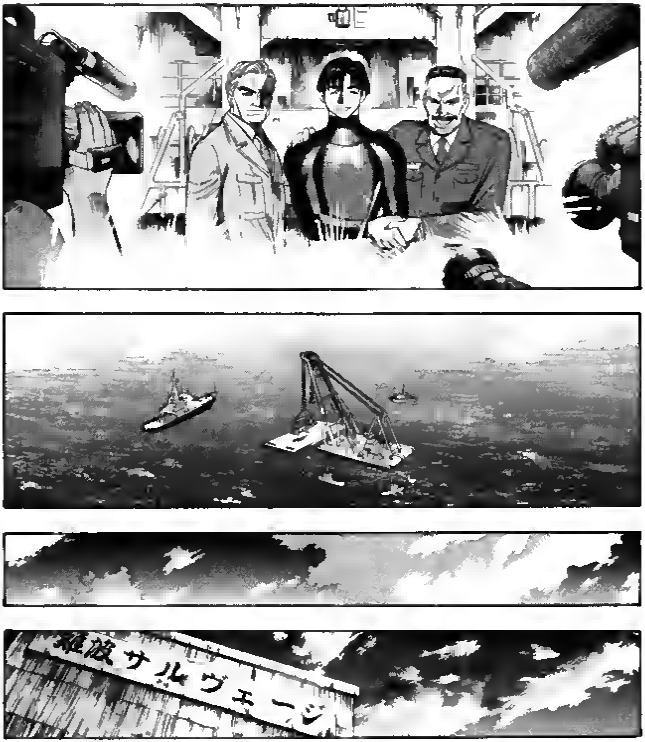
In other words... this proves you already knew the pieces would be found in shark-infested waters.
A shark guard projects a weak electric field around you so that sharks can't get close.
As I'd expected you had an electronic shark guard in there.
I took a look in your mesh bag just now.


The base commander and the media are overjoyed.
Reversing the situation in one go and raising the plane. Quite the performance.
I'm sure you're the one who called in the media too.

15

You had us all dancing to your little tune, didn't you?

Now, now...
Not in front of the cameras, Mr. Mutou.

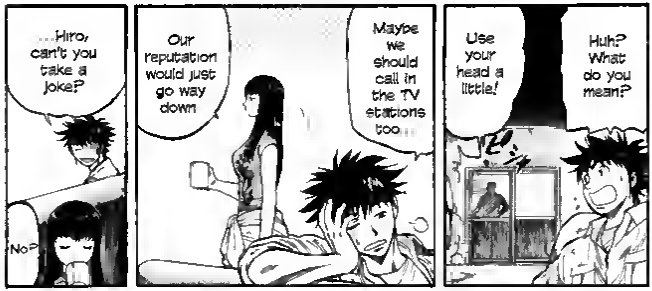

17
What the hell is this!?
Hey, hey, hey, hey!
Hey

What the... and that Eguchi guy gets to look all cool over there!
That guy's not a salvor. He's a magician

I told you it's a rich man's world out there!
Now they've got a TV special all about them!?
Forget the papers...
No fair...

With this feat Yamato Salvage's fame, and Eguchi's position within the company will both go way up.
By that I mean he's always got a trick up his sleeve
He is?

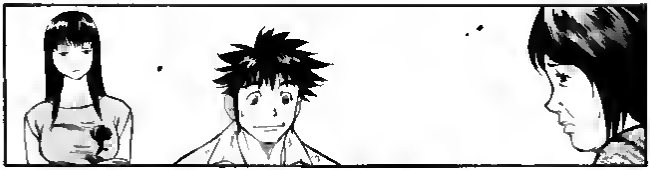
18


...Hiro, can't you take a joke?
No?
Our reputation would just go way down
Maybe we should call in the TV stations too...
Use your head a little!
Huh? What do you mean?

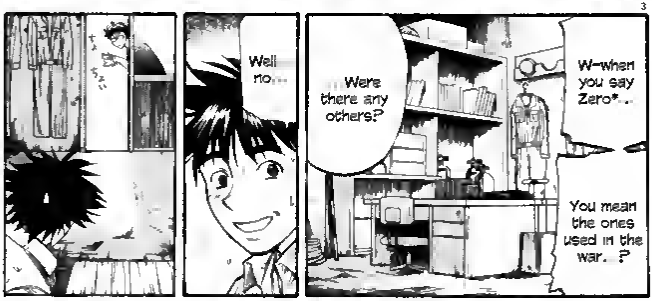
That Karmon thing really got to him, eh?
Ha!
Still, Eguchi ...going so far as to appeal to the media...
ガチャ
C-can I help you?
はっ はっ
……!?
I wish we could raise something fancy like a plane .
19
If we could salvage one, we'd be famous!

I'm here because I heard you people can raise anything ..
A Zero fighter that sank into the sea...
There's something I want you to raise...
.....

Chapter 35 Last Choice
To raise a Zero.
I want you...



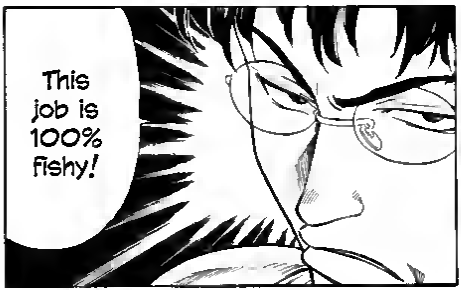
3



*THE MITSUBISHI A6M ZERO A JAPANESE WWII FIGHTER PLANE

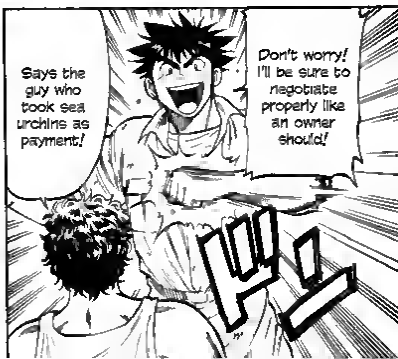
Just the word "Zero" makes the whole thing suspicious.
Huh? I haven't even heard the details yet!

Do NOT take that request!


This job is 100% fishy!

We'll be given the runaround and in the end we won't find the Zero and we won't get paid either!
Does that old bat look rich to you?

Oh, really
T-that's exactly why we have to do this job right and make some money


Says the guy who took sea urchins as payment!
Don't worry! I'll be sure to negotiate properly like an owner should!
ドン

Um...
...Here too?
I'll turn her down flat!
You just wat ch!
As soon as they heard "Zero", all the salvage compa- nies wouldn't believe me...
Huh?
5
Ah, no I'm not saying it's dirty or anything...
Place like this...?
Then how about you leave a "place like this" and go somewhere nicer, huh?
Sawa!
One of them jokingly referred me to a place like this...

...I went to the big-name company, Yamato Salvage.
They said they were busy with another job.
All the other companies turned me down with that excuse...

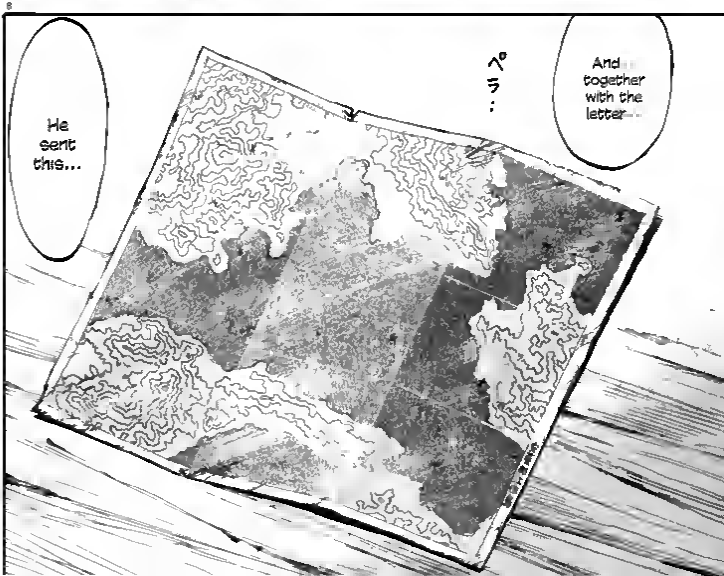
And so...
Ha!
And so you had no choice but to come to a "dirty place like this"?
P...

Please...
You're the only ones I can count on!
Go on. We're not doing this, so just turn her down flat!
...I know, but...

I beg you!
Plea-se!
I shouldn't waste time on a job that won't pay...
I'm behind on salary payments already...
Yes! Do it!
Um... well...
Could you tell us a little more about it...?
Die!
Calm down!
In any case ...
Hu-h...

He claims that during the war he was in the same flying Navy corps unit as my father...
It was sent by one Mr Enoda Kikuzou.

3 months ago, I got this letter.
To Mitsuno Sachi.


He sent this...
ペラ:
And together with the letter...

A map...
.....
Etajima...
都
江田島

That's in Hiroshima, isn't it?
Etajima, huh...

R-really!? Phew, lucky us!
They agreed to wait one more month for the payment on the lease!
Grampa!
My name is Mitsuno
Who is this?
I'm back!

...That word "yoroshuu"...
Thank you for coming. (Yoroshuu)
Welcome to Nanba Salvage!
がはは
Was it too hard to understand?
It's an expression straight from the land of fire, Kumamoto!

N-no, just thinking aloud.
Is something wrong?
Then that man...
Kumamoto...

Umm, what's this mark?
That's where the Zero is sunk...
According to the letter...
Eh!? Z-Zero?
Ha!

Remembers? He's probably senile!
There's no way he could remember the exact location of a ship shot down over the sea, in the middle of a dogfight no less!

The sender of the letter says he clearly remembers.
I don't get it. How could he know the location of a plane sunk in the Pacific during the war? It's not like they had GPS back then.

But...

That letter is probably just a prank anyway!
B-but the letter says...

12

My father...
Was on that plane.

光野幸枝
That Zero.
What is it to you?

I... don't remember my father's face.
He was drafted when I was 2 years old, and I heard he got shot down in an air battle in March 1944.
My mother got rid of everything of his... letters, pictures, clothes...
13
My father...
I thought there was nothing left of him in this world!

Even if we don't find anything, we're still going to charge you a lot.
To search the sea bed we'd need a sonar-equipped ROV* and a magnetometer. We'll also charge a separate fee for miscellaneous expenses.

*REMOTE OPERATED VEHICLE. A ROBOT USED FOR UNDERWATER WORK

My husband owns a trading company that makes quite a lot of money.
I also have a lot of savings
So please ...
Please look for it...!

Go on, Boss!
Do it now! Turn her down flat! Flat!
ゴスゴスゴス
We'll do it...
ゴスゴス
HUH?
I promise it.

We'll let you see your father's plane!
I promise ...
sniff...

Haven't you heard a word I've said!?
You're the one who hasn't been listening, Sawa!
She says she can pay whatever it takes!
Gramps wrangled us an extension but we've still got a lease payment next month...
And I haven't paid anyone's salary for a whole month, right?
Plus...
Even if it's just a shadow
Anyone would want to see their father again

We'll raise your father's Zero for sure!
Just leave all the rest to us, ma'am
That takes care of the contract.

I'm counting on you...
.....

They're excited because we haven't had a client in here in ages
Ha ha.

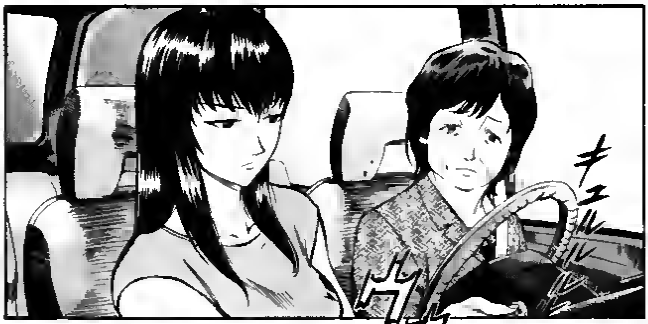
アニアン
ワンワン!

NOOOOOOOO!
Keep them away from me!
I, I'm so sorry You don't like dogs?

I do apologize. I'll drive you to the station
Thank you...
...I'll take her.
That's odd. Any special reason?

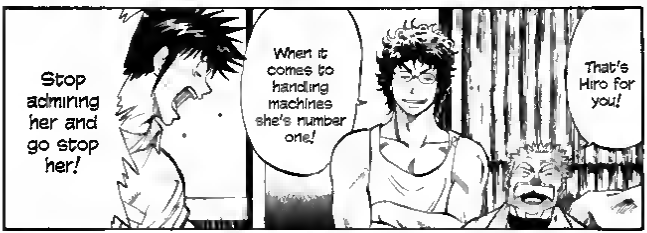
Girl talk.

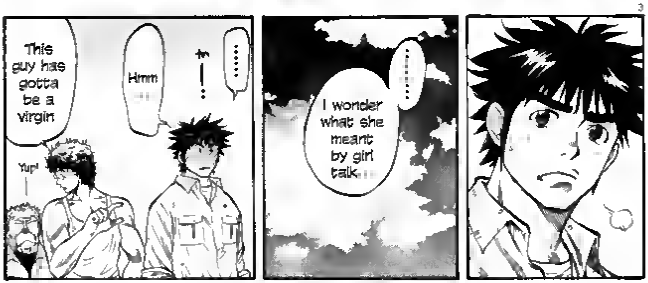
Chapter 36 The Same Smell



Chapter 36 The Same Smell

Hey! Hiro!
There's a client on board!


Stop admiring her and go stop her!
When it comes to handling machines she's number one!
That's Hiro for you!


This guy has gotta be a virgin
Hmm
Yup!
I wonder what she meant by girl talk

My fully-tuned twin-turbo baby is unbeatable!
Kakky, you're so cool!

Kakky
You
suck
ズシ
ドド
ドド
!!
Cafe
5
Could
you drive a
little more
carefully?
Um
……

Th-thank you very much.

That's a pretty fancy house for a trading company owner
I guess you really are rich
Y-yes
That's why I'm begging you!
Please find and raise my father's Zero!
Good-bye

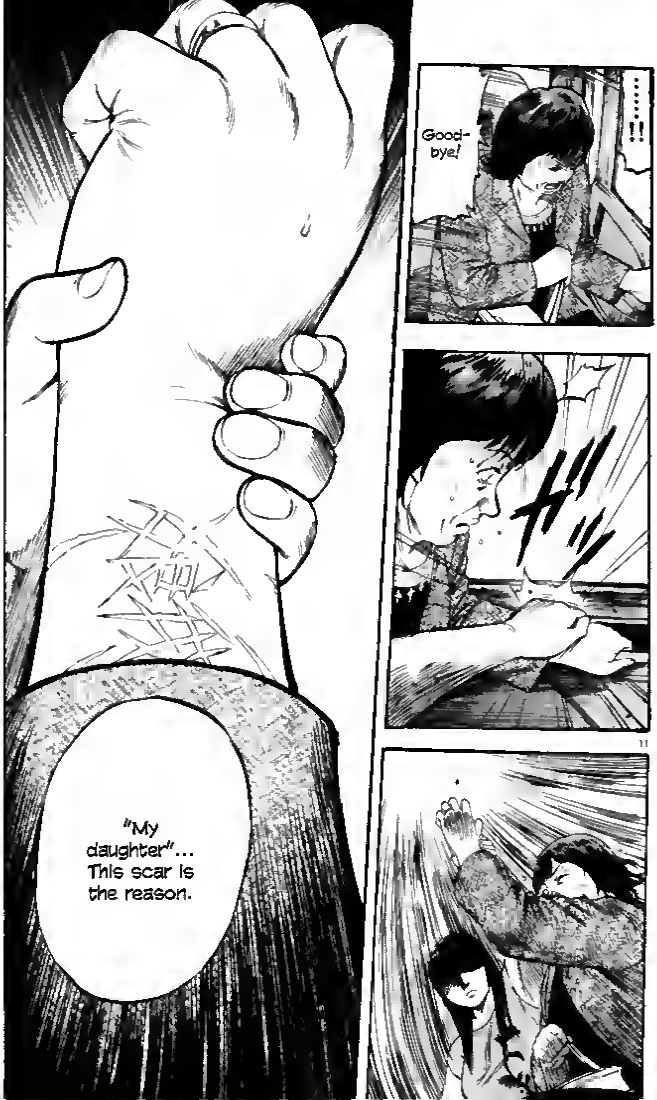
Why do you want to raise the Zero?

I.... that is....
.....
What will you do with it once it's raised?
Eh?

This is the only thing left of him in this world, so... I just want to see it.
As I explained, I don't know anything about my father.

All there is to it?
Is that really—
ドッ
ドッ
W-what do you mean?
What are you talking about?

Back then you weren't scared of the dogs...
.....
I beg you
P-put that thing away!
Wh-what are you doing ...!?
Right?
It was their teeth... You're afraid of sharp things...
10
Anything to do with your request?
Does that have ...
ガ

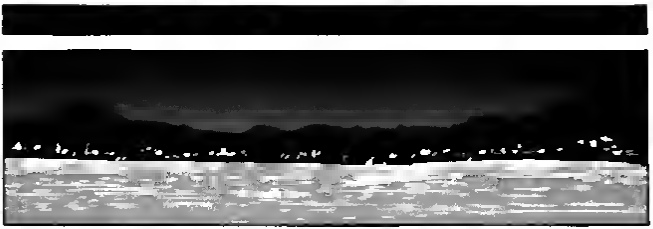

Good-bye!
……!!
"My daughter"… This scar is the reason.

You hate your father, don't you!?
You...

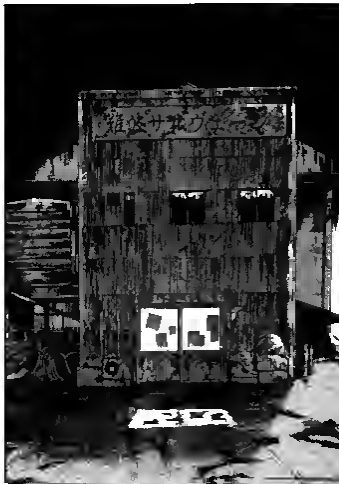
It's none of your business!
And what if I do?

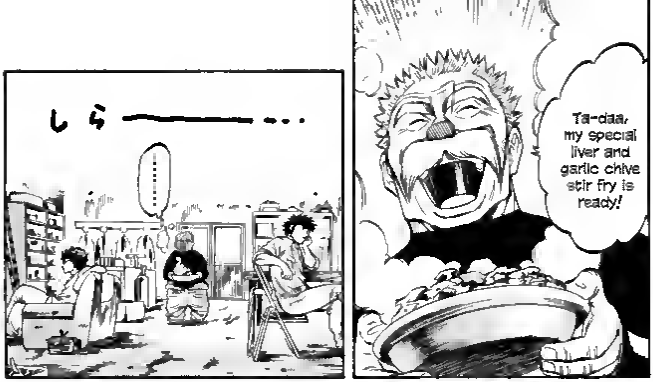
Just shut up and raise the plane!
I'll pay as much as you want, so...

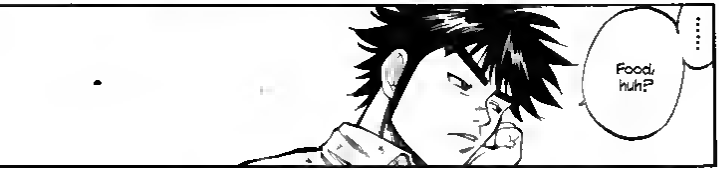
15



Where could she have gone?
Hiro's late...



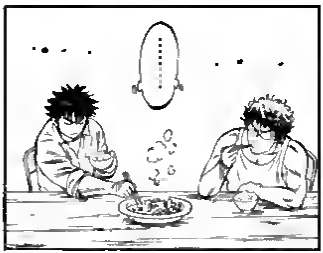

Ta-daa, my special liver and garlic chive stir fry is ready!

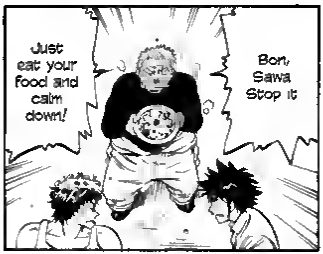

Food, huh?

You eat it.
If I eat with a certain somebody, I might catch his stupidity bug

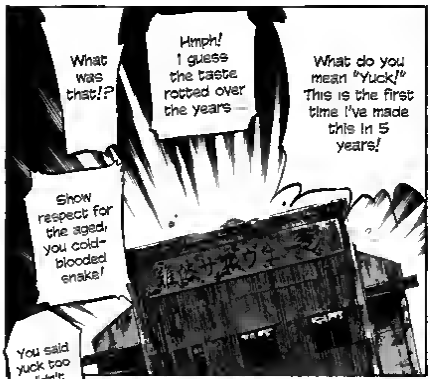
That's my line!
Eating dinner with a cold-blooded human will just make the hot food freeze!
Cold-blooded? I just pointed out that the request was highly suspicious!

We won't be helping us! If we've got time to do a fishy job like this, we'd be better off finding some cute girls and having a couple of drinks in a bar!
You heard her story, right? Didn't it make you want to help her? We'll be helping someone and making some money, it's a great job!




Just eat your food and calm down!
Bon, Sawa Stop it

18

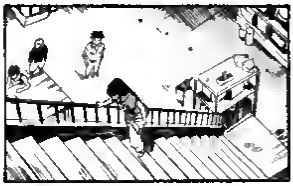

What was that!?
Hmph! I guess the taste rotted over the years —
What do you mean "Yuck!" This is the first time I've made this in 5 years!
Show respect for the aged, you cold-blooded snake!
You said yuck too didn't you?

Yuck!

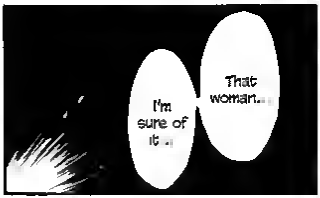
What do you mean by that?
I don't know!
It's giving off a really bad smell.
Anyway, count me out of this job!
When I say it stinks, I mean it stinks!
But I've been in this business for years.

I'll do it.
Fine! I'll do it by myself then!
So I'm an ignorant little newbie!
Well okay then!

I'll take care of it!
This job...
20
Hiro ....?



I've never seen Hiro like that before...
She's caught the boss's stupidity germs


That woman...
I'm sure of it...

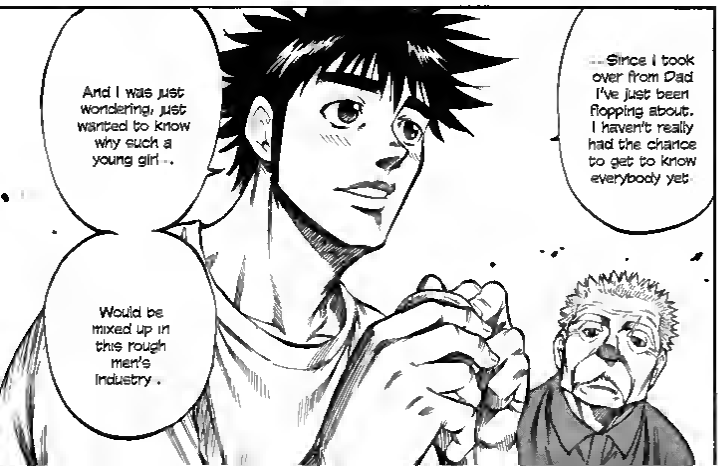
She's ...
Just like me...

Chapter 37 Sealed Past

Gramps, wanna go out and grab a bite?
That's not what I meant! I just want to have a quiet drink with you, that's all!
Forgive me for being such a terrible cook...
C-calm down, Gramps!
Let me just finish these dishes...
Of course I'll come with you!

Chapter 37 Sealed Past

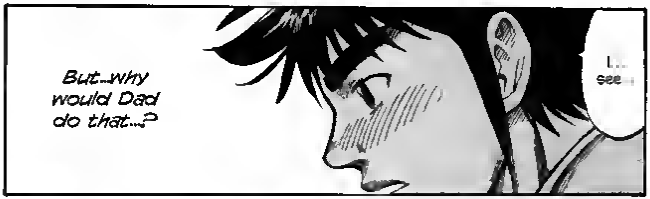
I'm not just old, I'm wise! I can tell these things!
Huh?
H-how did you...?
It's hard to ask questions in this kind of atmosphere..
...So what did you want to ask me?
Hiro?
I wanted to ask about Hiro..
Well...


...Since I took over from Dad I've just been flopping about. I haven't really had the chance to get to know everybody yet
And I was just wondering, just wanted to know why such a young girl..
Would be mixed up in this rough men's industry.

I don't know much about her either.
You don't?
Oh?
Gahaha that's just too bad.
N-no, it's not like that! I just want to know why she's here, whether's she's got family

It was 15 years ago.
One day the boss brought Hiro in out of nowhere...

Well, in this business there are lots of people who have "special reasons" so you learn not to ask too many questions.
"And don't ask about the details," is what he said...
"Make this girl a great sailor, please!"


But...why would Dad do that...?
I... see...

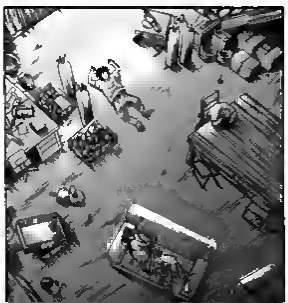
Scar erasing a letter...
Huh...

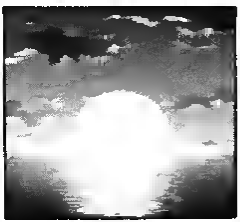
5

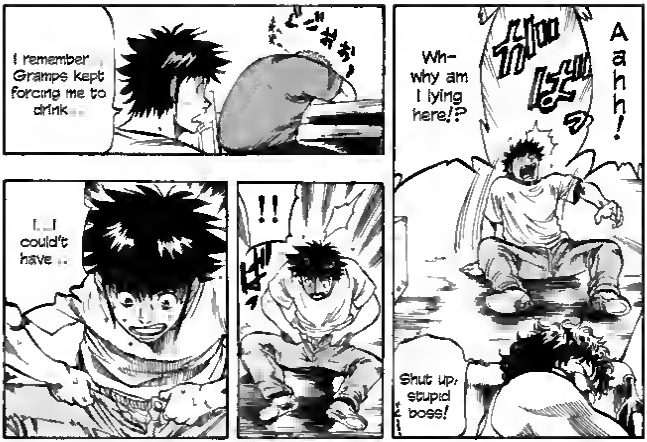
On the back of her neck she's got a scar like someone tried to erase a letter...
And I don't know if this has anything to do with it or not, but...

にか
I know, right?
She's hot enough to be a model, and she's really stylish, too!
Still, I agree she doesn't look like she belongs in this industry.
キュ
T-that's not how I meant it!
According to my observations, you and Hiro would make a great couple!
W-what kind of question is that?
Huh hhh !?
Bon, have you ever been with a woman!?
6
Alright! I'll take you to Nakasu tonight and have them make a real man out of you!
No way! I'll only do it with a girl I love!
I-I'm not trying to win her!
Faint heart never won fair lady, you know!
GUN

Ngh
...!






Aahh!
Wh-why am I lying here!?
Shut up, stupid boss!
!!
I remember... Grampa kept forcing me to drink...
I... I could't have...

What are you doing?
Uwaah!!
I want to talk about the job

The Zero should only weigh about 2.7 tons
If we calculate the load weight correctly I think Kairinmaru's crane should just about make it
They're too expensive so we won't use a crane ship this time

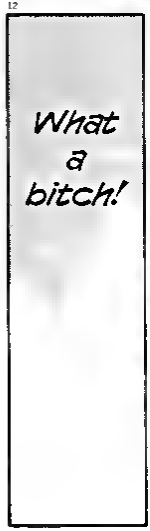
We'll search for one week, no more. We'll only take as much food as we need
We'll search an area of 3 kilometeres thoroughly, with this X on the map as the center

Hehe, just don't die from my cooking.
The boss and I will be diving this time
You won't have to dive, Sawa-san Just do the cooking for us and the dogs
You might not find anything in that weak, though

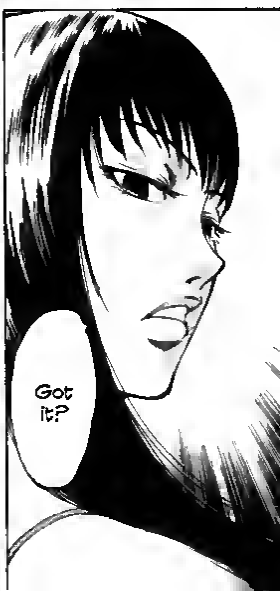
!
Let's do this seriously
You should have gotten some experience by now.
You'd better not get in my way

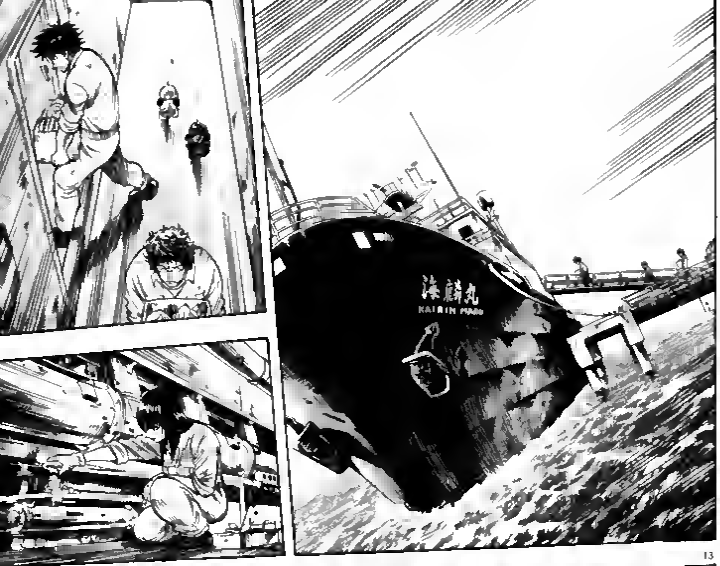
Okay?
Y-yeah

Aaah!
I'm all self-conscious now because of Gramps!

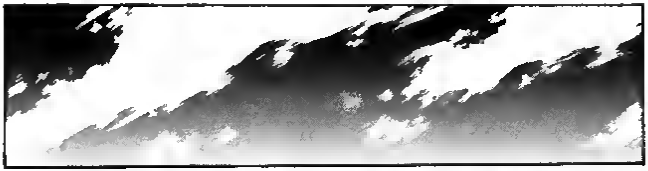

What a bitch!

Yeah, I got it!
What's her problem!?


Got it?

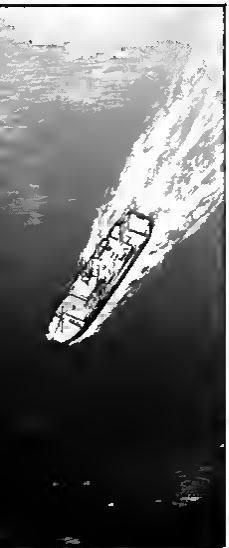

海鱗丸
KAIRIN MARU

Okay, all set!
Off to Edajima to find that Zero!

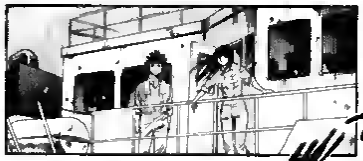


熊本

熊本駅



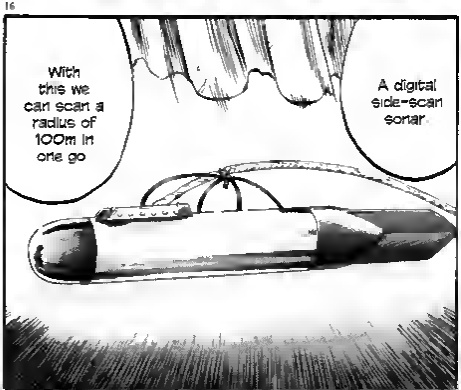
He'll shut up soon enough once we raise it...
Is he going to whine about this forever?



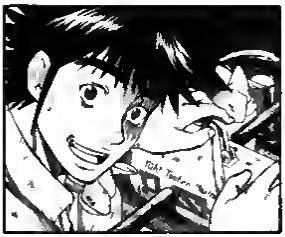
If this job wasn't so fishy it would be a lovely trip, wouldn't it?
It's been ages since we went to the Seto Inland Sea

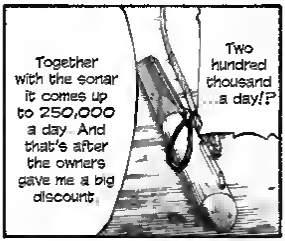
Don't worry, we have a secret weapon
We do?
...Finding anything in this wide area is going to be hell though

16


With this we can scan a radius of 100m in one go
A digital side-scan sonar

This is!
Nope!
Ohh, so that's our secret weapon!
M

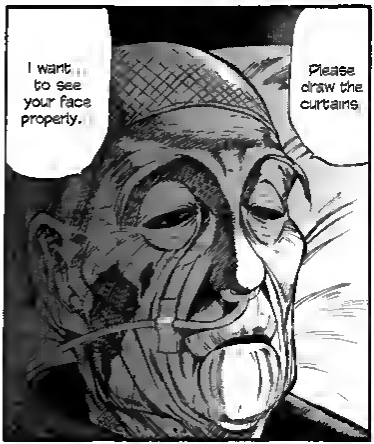



Together with the sonar it comes up to 250,000 a day. And that's after the owners gave me a big discount.
Two hundred thousand ...a day!?

*APPROX $2,000 A DAY

.....
Are you.. Mr. Enoda Kikuzou...?
So, at last
You are here

To kill me...


Please draw the curtains.
I want to see your face properly.

Chapter 38 Remembered Reason

Chapter 38 Remembered Reason

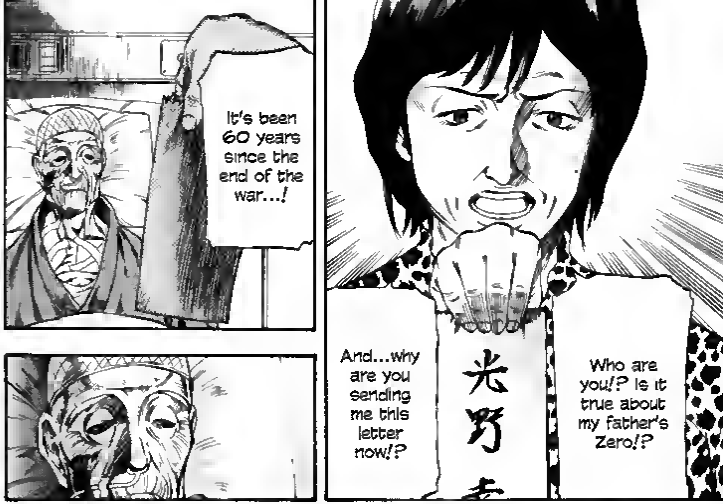
According to the map, it should be around here!

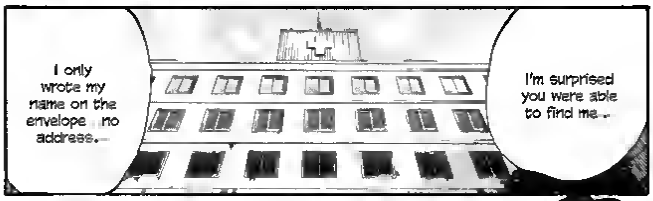
Somewhere in this area...

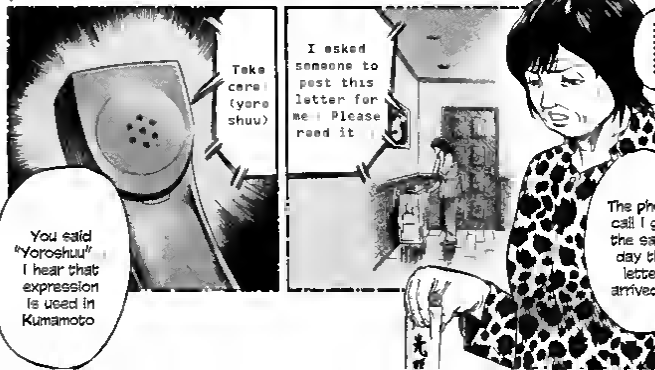
The Zero lies waiting...
ザ…
……
ジュク
ジュク
ジュク…
ジュク
ジュク
ジュク

What are you talking about?
Why would I want to kill you...?

I don't know what you're talking about
I came to see you for one reason...
光野 幸枝
This letter


It's been 60 years since the end of the war...!
Who are you!? Is it true about my father's Zero!?
And...why are you sending me this letter now!?
光男

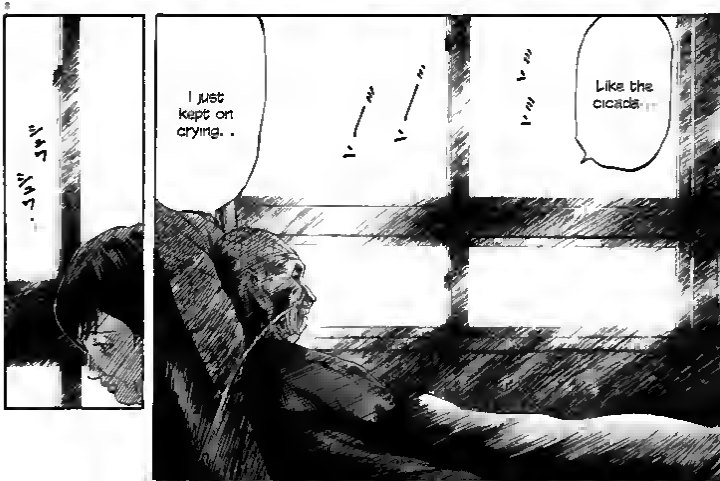

I only wrote my name on the envelope no address...
I'm surprised you were able to find me...


6
Take care (yoroshuu)
You said "Yoroshuu" I hear that expression is used in Kumamoto
I asked someone to post this letter for me Please read it
.....
The phone call I got the same day the letter arrived...

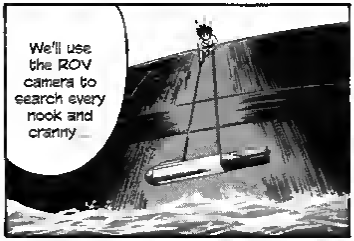
That's why I took the chance and checked all the hospitals in Kumamoto to see if they had a patient named Enoda Kikuzou.
Mr. Enoda please return to your room.
Then I heard someone speaking behind you.
I see.
You were that driven to find me.
No wonder I thought you'd come to kill me.
A cicada...
What on earth is that about? I just...

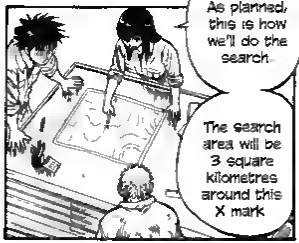
Does it think its life is long? Does it think its short?
It just keeps crying, mourning the end of its life...

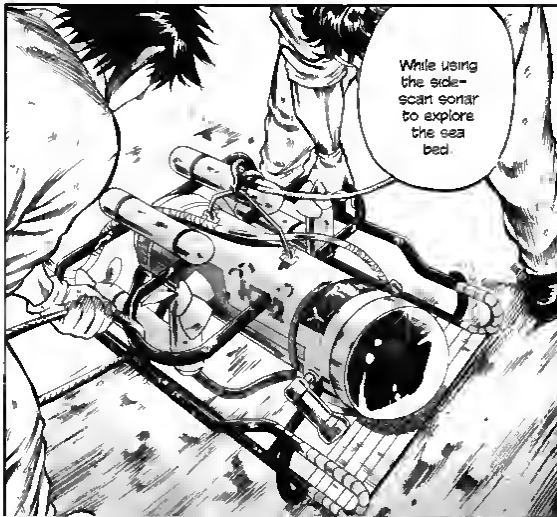
.....
60 years
Were they long?
Were they short?


Like the cicada...
I just kept on crying. .

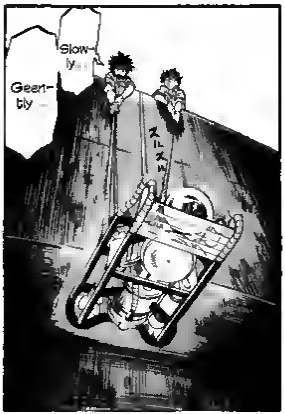
I thought you should know where your father sleeps...
I've hated him for 60 years, but...
I looked you up in the phone book...And had that letter delivered to you...
Before I stop crying for good.

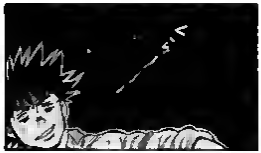

We'll use the ROV camera to search every nook and cranny.....


As planned, this is how we'll do the search.
The search area will be 3 square kilometres around this X mark


While using the side-scan sonar to explore the sea bed.

This thing is expensive! If anything happens, we'll be forced to buy it
Let it down geeeeeently, Sawa!


Slow-ly
Geen-tly
スルスル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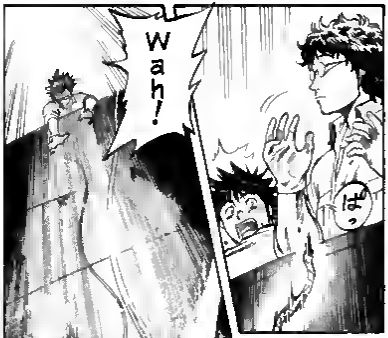
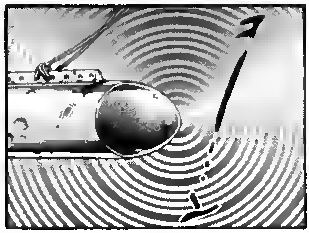
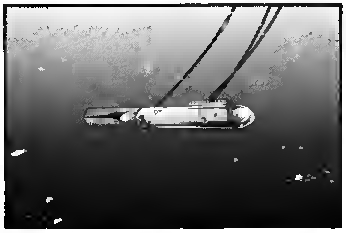
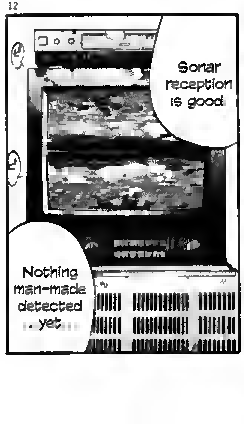

Wah!
ﾊﾋｯ

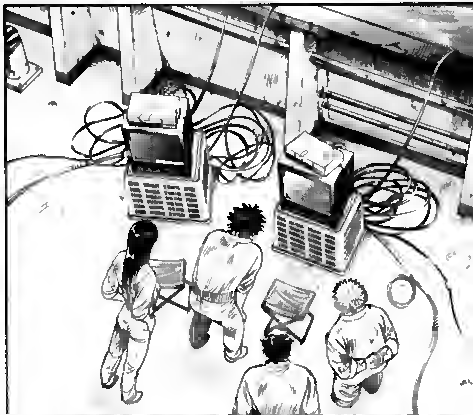
Sa... Sa.... Sawaa!
Shut up! Always bitching and moaning!
If the job goes well you'll be able to buy plenty of them!

IF the job goes well...





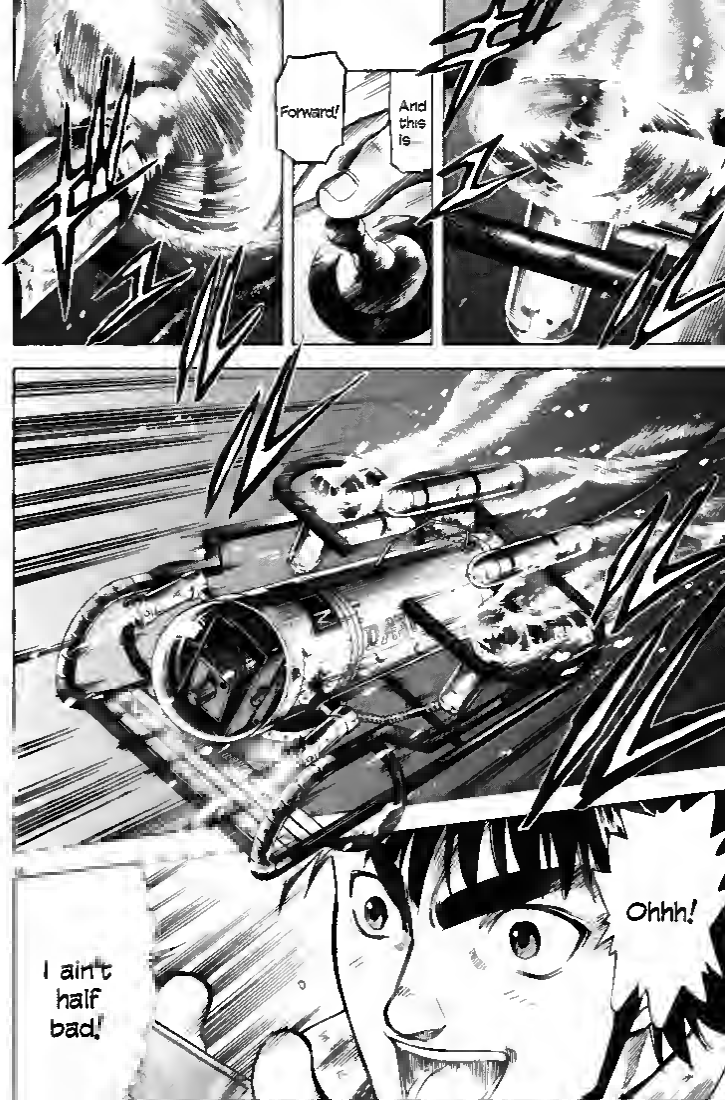

Sonar reception is good
Nothing man-made detected yet

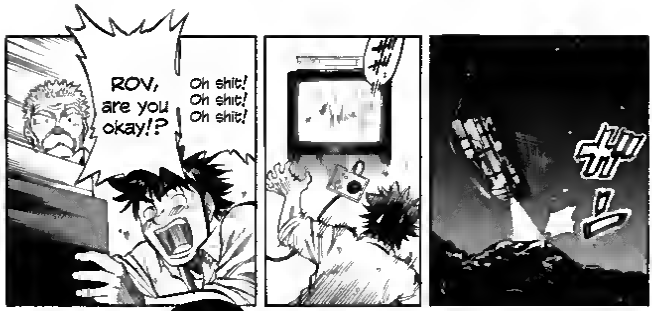


Okay, let's start the visual search with the ROV.
Sawa, have you used one of these before?
Of course. I'm an expert!
Go for it!
No.

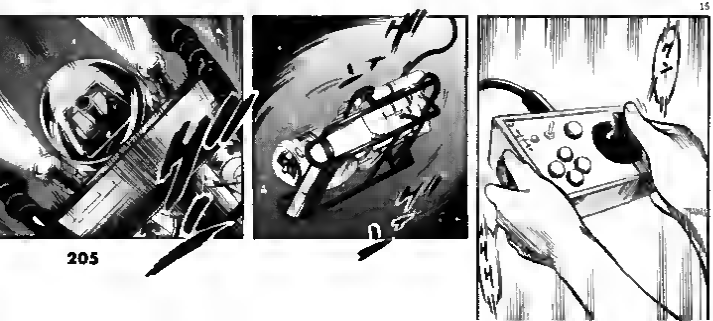
I have to make dinner anyway.
Gotta put some effort into making it really, really bad!
Shi-t!

Fine! If I pretend it's a game I should be able to do it!
This must be...
Down!


Forward!
And this is
Ohhh!
I ain't half bad!

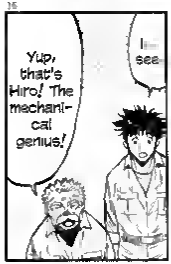

ROV, are you okay!?
Oh shit! Oh shit! Oh shit!

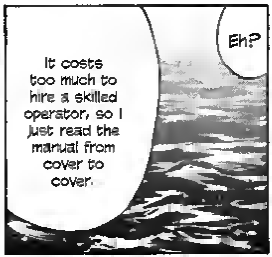
Give it here



This is my first time
You've been using ROVs for a while, right?

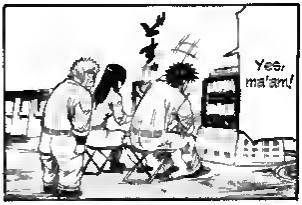
You're really good at this!
Wow!

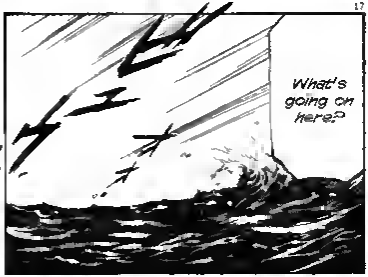

Yup, that's Hiro! The mechanical genius!
I see.


It costs too much to hire a skilled operator, so I just read the manual from cover to cover.
Eh?

Don't just stand there and stare!
Take that dumb look off your face and start checking the sonar!

Geez!
She's super serious about this job...!


Yes, ma'am!


What's going on here?

On the back of her neck...There's a scar like a letter was erased...
It's huge...

What in the world happened to you...!?
Hiro...

Where the hell have you been!?
You skipped work and just took off for two whole days!
Where were you?

Sachi!
I don't owe you any explanations for whatever I choose to do now!
I worked my fingers to the bone to get your company where it is today

You want to know why I recall the location of the Zero so clearly...?
It's simple...
All of them
Men...
Because I'm the one...
Who shot down your father!